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Hussein: **Crisis** is over, Iraq is to blame

The Jerusalem p

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

THE Jordanian government yesterday proclaimed the security crisis over, as King Hussein stepped up accusations that "for-eign parties" were behind the two days of bread riots that shook the kingdom.

"The situation is totally under control ... Everything has been very quiet in the country," Hussein said in an interview shown on state-run television.

"I believe there were foreign parties [involved in the unrest] and our investigation is going to show all of that," he said. "My appeal to people is to think before they do something, but it also appears to me that it was a planned thing and there were parties who were moving from one area to another to excite people in a designed operation.

CNN said the king told it that Iraq was responsible. Hussein and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti have led the reversal of Jordan's once close ties to Iraq over the past year.

I think, sir, some of these peo-ple [in the riots] are known to be people who were either educated in Iraq or had sympathies toward Iraq," Hussein said.

Those involved in the riots dismissed suggestions of outside involvement, saying the unrest was a product of deepening economic hardship.

When violence erupted on Friday, three days after the government doubled the price of bread, Hussein vowed to crush the protests with an "iron first" and ended the summer session of the lower house of parliament, where there was little support for the price rise.

However, the riots that had flared in Karak quickly spread to nearby towns on Friday. Clashes continued in Karak on Saturday and also broke out in a poor district on Amman.

Information Minister Marwan Muasher yesterday said the "crisis passed peacefully," but that Karak would remain under curfew and those suspected of violent protests are being rounded

Muasher said security forces had arrested "several people who were responsible for acts of sabotage.

Residents of Karak said security forces had arrested up to 120

WAFA, the PLO press agency, said that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat sent a message to Hussein expressing his concern over the bread riots. The protests over the price rises have sparked fears that Palestinians in Jordan will be accused of anti-government

The riots were the worst violence in Jordan since those of 1989, which also were triggered by government price rises. Hussein then responded to popular pressure by changing his prime minister and starting democratic reforms.

The proclamation of normality by the government left Kabariti, who was the focus of the protests, and the vocal Moslemled opposition at a political

impasse. A coalition of 11 parties blamed the government, which the king appointed in January, for the riots and has demanded its removal.

The opposition, including the powerful Islamic Action Front, also condemned Hussein's vow to crush the protests, saying its followers would never bow to

oppression and injustice. But the Kabariti government, backed by the king, has been uncompromising.

-We are convinced of the move we took after a broad dialogue and would not go back on it," an official said.

New York Times

The New York Times Weekly Review Section does not appear in today's paper due to a technical problem. We apologize for the inconvenience.





Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu (right), Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo (center), and Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy look on as the machine test drilling for Tel Aviv's new subway goes into action. Story, Page 12.

Netanyahu, Levy set rules for work relationship

Shomron to head steering panel with PA

FORMER chief of general staff Dan Shomron will head the steering committee for the negotiations with the Palestinians; Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will oversee the peace process; and Foreign Minister David Levy will not be left out of policy-making, Netanyahu and Levy

agreed in a meeting yesterday.
This understanding ended. for the time being, the rift between Netanyahu and Levy, who was angry over being left out of the peace process and threatened to resign.

Netanyahu and Levy agreed on rules for the relations between **SARAH HONIG**

their offices, and a written agreement on each office's role in foreign policy-making is being hammered out. The document is expected to be completed today or

Netanyahu and Levy also agreed to set up a steering committee on the talks with the Syrians and the Lebanese, which will include Netanyahu, Levy, and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

The prime minister got his way so far as the Palestinian steering committee is concerned. It will be headed by Shomron, who will soon confer with both Netanyahu and Levy, so no one will feel left

After sulking for two weeks, Levy's main achievement seems to have been an ego boost, admitted his confidants, a few of whom accused him of having buckled

Levy maintained that he would have resigned yesterday if Netanyahu had not broken the impasse. He claimed that he had come to the Prime Minister's Office with a letter of resignation in his pocket.

Levy's last act of defiance in this round was his failure to show up at a session of the inner cabinet on Hebron, which immediately preceded his meeting with (Continued on Page 2)

Levy wants to explain to EU why Israel won't allow Orient House visits

FOREIGN Minister David Levy says he wants to hold a meeting in Europe with the rotating threemember European Union (EU) leadership to explain why Israel will not permit the EU foreign ministers to visit Orient House, the PLO's Jerusalem headquarters.

Levy returned to work yesterday after a two-week absence due to a spat with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. He indicated it was preferable to hold the meeting in Europe so as to avoid a confrontation.

Officials say that a month ago the EU leadership, known as the troika, asked to visit, but the request was not accepted due to DAVID MAKOVSKY

the Orient House issue. Israel views visits by foreign leaders to Orient House as a tacit recognition that eastern Jerusalem should be the capital of a future Palestinian state. However, the Palestinian Authority has denied that any official business is con-

ducted there. Speaking on Israel Radio yesterday evening, Levy declared: "I am convinced that we can persuade them to meet shortly in Europe. It will be my chance to clarify this central message" of opposition to an Orient House

visit, due to its political implica-

Officials say Levy would be happy to meet the troika anvwhere in Europe next month. At present. Ireland holds the sixmonth chairmanship of the EU. In a summit meeting in June, the

EU sought to avoid embarrassing the new Netanyahu government and deleted its past call for all European ministers to visit "Palestinian institutions." Yel a month later, it was decided by EU foreign ministers that, while all the members nations were exempt from making such visits, the EU leadership would be obligated to visit Orient House while on official trips to Israel.

Religious parties seek to rein in High Court

11 prison officials charged

with negligence over

Ashmoret breakout

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RELIGIOUS MKs are drafting leg-islation requiring Supreme Court confirmation, it said. nominees to win Knesset confirmation, a move sure to inflame mounting secular-religious tensions,

Channel 2 reported last night.
"We may have to enact very clear and explicit legislation regarding the authority of the Supreme Court," MK Rabbi Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) told Channel 2 TV. Channel 2 said UTJ leaders and

religious allies agreed on the proposed bill Friday, a day after the High Court of Justice upheld an earlier injunction to keep Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan open on Shabbat until a public commission can decide on the issue of Shabbat road

Asked to respond to the report,
Prime Minister Binyamin
Netanyahu said, "The Supreme
Court is a respected institution ... Its status is secure."

According to the TV report, the religious parties soon plan to submit a bill requiring all prospective justices to pass a vote in the Knesset. Justices already on the bench

ELEVEN Prisons Service officers,

including the commander of the

northern district, the district's secu-

rity officer, and Ashmoret Prison's

warden, are to be subjected to disci-

plinary proceedings before perma-

nent decisions are reached regarding

the escape of two security prisoners

A committee set up by Internal

Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani

to probe the escape released its find-

ings yesterday, revealing faults in the prison's structure, the incorrect

employment of security prisoners to

from Ashmoret two weeks ago.

Ravitz did not directly confirm such a bill was in the works, but maintained there are "loopholes" in existing laws enabling the court to intervene in political issues "and we need to fix this."

The TV quoted Shas spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef as saying that "the time has come" to reign in the Supreme Court because its actions make religious Jews feel like we are still in exile."

Legal commentator Moshe Negbi said that if the proposal was adopted "the court will not be able to carry out its task of upholding civil rights, and protecting the minorities. "Such a law would turn the Supreme Court into a political body," Negbi said. "It shows how little they understand the role of the court."

Negbi said the Knesset used to appoint justices in the state's early years, but in the 1950s the state established a nine-member nominating panel that includes two ministers, two MKs, two judges, and three

carry out renovation work, and the

wardens' indifference to warnings

Prisons Service Commissioner

Arye Bibi was not held responsible

for the escape, nor were other top

brass. The most senior officer to be

reprimanded is northern district

other officers, we will know if any-

one will be transferred from the

Prisons Service," Kahalani told a

"After the proceedings against

commander Ya'acov Nimrod.

press briefing. (Continued on Page 2)

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Settlers plan public campaign against Hebron redeployment

SETTLEMENT activists were meeting late last night to formulate a public campaign against Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's plan to redeploy from Hebron, which they charge is little different than that of the Labor government.

In addition to representatives of the Jewish communities in Hebron and Kiryat Arba, the meeting was attended by various right-wing activist groups, including Mateh Ma'amatz, which organized many of the protests against the previous government. It was not known if the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea and Samaria sent a representative.

Council spokesman Aharon Domb said most of the council's senior people were at other, previously scheduled meetings.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and the inner cabinet convened yesterday to continue debating redeployment plans for Hebron. The plan, which the Defense Ministry prepared over the past few weeks, is largely based on that of the previous government regarding cooperation between security and intelligence

EVELYN GORDON and Itim

plan provides the best possible security for settlers in Hebron. However, several ministers, among them Ariel Sharon, Rafael Eitan, and Yitzhak Levy, have dis-

puted various aspects of the plan. Settler organizations plan to increase pressure on all ministers, including those who have already come out against redeploying from Arab sections of Hebron.

Sharon has been serving as a gobetween for the settlers and the cabinet.

Sharon made a surprise visit to Hebron before the inner cabinet meeting. He visited several sites, and settlers told him they are concerned that there will not be a way to prevent Palestinian attacks if the IDF redeploys.

Sharon's spokesman refused to comment on rumors that Sharon is strongly opposed to the new redeployment plans.

Noam Amon, spokesman for the Jewish community in Hebron, said the goal of the settlers' meeting was to plan "widespread public activity to put pressure on the government."

While the community has not

Mordechai's plan, both press reports and hints from government officials lead the residents to believe it is very similar to the previous government's, with the addition of what several termed 'cosmetic changes.'

These cosmetic changes certainly don't supply security," said Gershon Bar-Kochva, a member of the residents' political-security committee, in an interview with Arutz 7. Bar-Kochva said the security flaws will affect not just Hebron residents, but also the rest of the country, since Hebron is a Hamas stronghold.

Furthermore, Bar-Kochva said, the planned dividing line between the IDF and the Palestinian Authority in the city runs through houses and crowded streets, and will therefore be completely unen-

Arnon said another issue of great concern to the residents is that under the current plan, Hebron's Jews would be depen-dent on the PA for everything from water to building permits once the IDF withdraws. This issue was the main focus of Sharon's visit, he

The government has no mandate to do this," Arnon said.



Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi (left) awards Nahal Staff-Sgt. Tomer Assuel second prize - a package tour to Turkey – in the "I Quit, I Win" smoking cessation campaign. The campaign was open to those 18 and over who had smoked at least one cigarette a day for a year and quit at least a month before the lottery was held. It was organized by the Israel Cancer Association in conjunction with the Health Ministry.

(Avi Hayoun)

Labor slams government for 'stalling peace process, causing economic crisis'

LABOR'S Knesset faction yesterday slammed the government for the paralysis in the peace process, and for causing the crisis in the capital market and reneging on its promises to the new immigrants.

The party's MKs also criticized the crisis of confidence between Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani and the police leadership, suggesting that Kahalani's interference with appointments is intended to whitewash investigations of senior political figures.

The MKs expressed deep concern over the standstill in the negotiations with Syria and the direction which the contacts with the Palestinians are taking. Party leader Shimon Peres warned that the "freeze" in the talks with Syria will open up other worse options, "like the trends we are now observing in Iran." Commenting on the talks with

the Palestinians, Peres blasted the government's attempt to hold both sides of the stick at once, noting that "you can't say that we accept the Oslo agreement, and at the same time propose changing it."

Former police minister Moshe Shahal commented on the tension between Kahalani and police brass, noting that the morale in the police leadership is extremely low. He lashed out at Kahalani's suspension of the appointment of Sando Mazor as chief of the Investigations Kahalani had accused Shahal of 'slipping in" Mazor's appointment just before the elections and called it "unprecedented gall."

Shahal said Mazor's appoint-

ment had been agreed on six months prior to the elections as part of a series of new appoint-

Some MKs suggested that Mazor's appointment is being sabotaged in an attempt to close down the police investigation against senior political figures, including former justice minister Ya'acov

MK Haggai Merom said "things have to be said clearly: There are those who do not want Sando Mazor in the job intended for him, and for good reason. They don't want him in the job because he is a pro who knows how to conduct an investigation and does so faithfully and honestly." minister

Former finance Avraham Shohat gave a survey of the economic situation and sharply criticized the government's failures in the capital mar-

Shohat noted that the government has already reneged on all the promises it made to help new immigrants in the coalition agreement with Yisrael Ba'aliya.

Jordan names new Al-Aksa: director; PA keeps old one

BILL HUTMAN

THE competition between the Palestinian Authority and Jordan over Al-Aksa Mosque - which has already resulted in the existence of two muftis – now appears to have left the holy site with two direc-

The Jordanian Ministry of the Wakf last week appointed Izat Duffash as its new Al-Aksa director. However, the present director, Mohammed Hussein, also a Jordanian appointment but identified closely with the PLO, is being kept on by the PA.

For over a year, there have been two muftis at Al-Aksa - one appointed by the Jordanians and the other by the PA - and it is expected that the move by Jordan and the PA last week will similarly leave the site with two direc-

Israeli officials are watching developments at Al-Aksa closely, in particular as the PA, under the Oslo Accords, is forbidden to operate in Jerusalem.

Israeli authorities, however, have largely looked the other way with regard to the PA's presence at Al-Aksa.

Israeli sources said that Duffash, a long-time Wakf official from Hebron, took a leave of absence immediately after his appointment, hoping to avoid the storm surrounding the move.

The PA has already managed to isolate the Jordanian-appointed mufti, using a combination of threats and physical pressure on people coming to him to make it difficult for him to work, and Israeli sources said it would likely try to do the same with the Jordanian-appointed director.

Wakf Director Adnan Husseini denied there is any dispute. "There is nothing at all going on. We are talking simply about internal arrangements in the Wakf, and nothing more than that."

Husseini charged that Israel is trying to make an issue out of the matter, in light of its interests at the site. Hussein and Duffash could not be contacted for com-

NEW

Expert: Gov't policy increases chance of war with Syria

BY making it clear it will not agree to a full Golan withdrawal, the government has created a greater prospect that Syria will initiate a war - even if its prospects for winning are slimmer than the past, according to Prof. Ze'ev Maoz, head of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

In an article in yesterday's Ha'aretz, he urged Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, so long as he continues his current course, to prepare the public for the possibility of war in the "not too distant future."

In response, Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser Dore Gold discounted the Syrian war option, saying this government has been "careful not to put Syrian President Hafez Assad in a cor-

Maoz said that it would be wrong to assume that Syria's decision to start a war would be determined by the military balance, which is tipped towards Israel due to a variety of factors, including the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Rather, Damascus may decide, like Cairo did in 1973, that a limited war could have a decisive psychological impact in breaking the diplomatic stalemate, and thereby help it win back terri-

He said, however, that unlike the Yom Kippur War, the casualties might be civilians who live within the range of Syria's Scud-C missiles. He said the Syrians might be willing to take such a risk even knowing that the inevitable counterstrike would be very punishing.

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Maoz stressed that the prospects for war with Syria had dropped during the Labor government,

blame on himself," said Bībi.

cooperated with the prison's management."

stances of the murder, alongside the police investigation.

when it appeared there might be a breakthrough in the peace process. The main meaning of the diplomatic about-face on the Syrian track is a considerable increase in the probability of war with Syria and perhaps additional Arab elements," he wrote, adding: "Therefore, as long as the Netanyahu government intends to continue its present policy ... it must prepare the IDF and Israeli citizens for war in the not-too-dis-

tant future." Maoz said the Likud notion of peace with the Golan" is a "fanta-

In critiquing Maoz's argument, Gold said he "is partly right that, historically, political calculations can affect the Arab war option more than the political calculus of the balance of power. However, in this case, the Netanyahu government has been careful not to put Assad in a corner, so that he is left with no other other choice but a military option, Moreover, it has not closed the door to further negotiations with Syria besides

Lebanon First." In 1994, then premier Yitzhak Rabin declared that in the event that the peace process with Syria did not succeed within a few years, he expected a countdown to the next confrontation with Damascus. Therefore, Rabin said, if the peace process with Syria failed, at a certain point he would advocate greater defense spending to prepare for a military con-

In a CNN interview last week, Netanyahu said he is not only willing to discuss the terms for a pullback from southern Lebanon with Syria, but would be willing to

POLICE are investigating the murder of a Hamas terrorist awaiting

Nazar Abu Zina, described as a dangerous security prisoner, was

found battered to death yesterday morning. He was charged with a long

series of violent crimes against collaborators, settlers, and IDF soldiers.

Both the deceased and his celimate were members of Hamas's mili-

Sa'id Badama, suspected of killing him, was sentenced to death by a

military court for planting the bomb at Hadera's central bus station which killed 10 people in 1994. He was awaiting an appeal against the

But Prisons Service Commissioner Arye Bibi said it is still not certain that Badama killed Abu Zina. "Since he has nothing to lose, it is possible that someone else killed Abu Zina and that Badama is taking the

Bardana has already admitted to the murder, saying that "Abu Zina

Bibi has asked Prisons Service officers to investigate the circum-

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JACK NASSER

Sami and Angela Shamoon

trial, apparently by his cellmate, at Hasharon Prison yesterday.

Palestinian High Court orders PA to release 10 students

THE Palestinian High Court yesterday ordered the Palestinian Authority to release 10 students

jailed in Ramallah since March.

The High Court ruled, in response to a petition by two lawyers, that there is no legal basis to hold the Bir Zeit University students, who were arrested after the suicide bombings, and that they should be released since they have not been charged, the Palestinian Society

for the Protection of Human Rights said in a statement. The PA has not reacted to the court ruling. If accepted, it would provide a precedent for petitions on behalf of hundreds of other prisoners jailed after the suicide bombings without charges or tri-

However, since the students were not tried in civil courts, the

Prison. On July 24, the team report-

ed that there were no breaches in

security at Ashmoret, although the

12-meter tunnel Awi and Zadan

were drilling underground was

The other two prisoners in Awi's

and Zadan's cell chose not to join

them because they had already

been on the run from authorities for

two years before their imprison-

ment and were "tired of being

chased." According to the two, Awi

and Zadan fled between 4:15 a.m.

and 4:30 a.m. At 5:15 a.m.

they alerted the guard and told him

to call the duty officer. The guard

refused, saying that in any case the

officer was due to conduct a head

Nimrod, the committee concluded, did not ensure that the orders

given by top brass were implemented at Ashmoret, which is under his

jurisdiction. The committee recom-

mended he face a disciplinary hear-

ing for negligence and given an

The district's security officer,

Haim Moshe, will probably be

charged with insubordination and

negligence. The committee also

recommended that he not be

appointed to a supervisory or secu-

Ashmoret warden Shimon

Buhbut is also to face a hearing.

The committee recommended his

transfer and that he not be

employed as a commander. He

failed to change regulations to

adjust to security prisoners, Levy

said. He also had no control of what

Ashmorer's security officer, Rashroosh Kablan, should be trans-ferred from his duty, the findings

On the whole, the committee

found the local Ashmoret units

guilty of negligence by failing to notice the drilling of the numel, to

supervise tools used for renova-

tions, and to give necessary briefin-

gs, and of ignorance of written reg-

ulations, in spite of warnings of

intended break-outs and security

rity position in the future.

went on at the prison.

count at 6:45 am.

official reprimand.

nearly complete at the time.

PA is unlikely to honor the High Court's ruling, which applies to

civil cases. In a previous case in which a civil court ordered a prisoner released, he was taken before a military court and a military judge ordered him imprisoned. Amnesty International and other human rights groups have demanded that the military courts be dismantled and the prisoners charged or

NEGLIGENCE

(Continued from Page 1)

Two weeks ago Tawfik Zadan and Ghassan Awi, serving sentences for attempted murder and murder, tunnelled their way to freedom using a pneumatic drill they had stolen while they were working on renovations to improve security at Ashmoret Prison. According to the findings, the two began drilling in May, storing a total of 60 bags of earth and sand near the sewage system. A plumber noticed a blockage in the sewage system, but it was not

negotiate on aspects of the Golan. investigated. After the escape, Bibi said he would resign if found responsible, Hamas terrorist but the committee did not find him to blame for security breaches at the prison, instead accusing lower ranks of insubordination and neglikilled in prison cell

The structure of Ashmoret Prison, which was not suitable for security prisoners, was one of the three main factors in the escape, Kahalani said. Prior to the breakout, Bibi had ordered a thorough examination of all prisons where security prisoners were housed and Ashmoret was found to have serious breaches. He thus ordered renovations and brought in an addi-

In October 1995, following the Oslo accords, 530 security prisoners in the territories were transferred to prisons within the Green Line, Bibi said.

There was not enough room in the Nafha and Ashkelon top security prisons, so many such prisoners were incarcerated in Ashmoret," he

The committee also found that orders Bibi gave to the district wardens and their commanders were not carried out. In January, an examination was carried out at all medium and maximum security prisons. Breaches in Ashmoret were discovered and the renovation

work was begun. In mid-July, Bibi appointed another team to thoroughly examine medium security prisons, following an attempted break-out by three security prisoners at Ashkelon

RELATIONSHIP

(Continued from Page 1) Netanyahu. Levy had boycotted all ministerial forums for the past

two weeks. The two sides agreed that Netanyahu has the leading role in all negotiations with Israel's neighbors. "That is a given. It is a basic axiom of our system of government. To quarrel with that would be to express no-confidence in the prime minister and I am certainly not doing that. There is no challenge or hint of challenge whatever to Netanyahu's authority as prime minister,"

But he and Netanyahu agreed that the Foreign Ministry will not be left out of the process. Levy will be consulted on everything and will meet with Netanyahu at least once a week.

Levy insisted.

Levy admitted that this is no radical departure from arrangements which had been in effect

"Even before all this I knew 99 percent of everything that went on, but there were hitches. In the past few weeks, we were heading to a Tower of Babel situation in which there was no communication. I do not regret the crisis because there was an urgent need to get this back on the right track, before the most vital national interests were affected," Levy

He blamed much of the trouble on the diplomatic desk at the Prime Minister's Office headed by Dore Gold, Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser. Levy claimed the desk has now been dismantled and that Gold will function as an adviser only.

However, the Prime Minister's Office denied this, saying the only thing which has changed is the titles of the staff, which is expected to expand. They noted that Gold's status also remains unchanged.

Gold himself is expected to hold greater consultations on some day-to-day matters with Foreign Ministry officials, so as to improve coordination.

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High Court: Omer mayor can't ban Aviv Geffen performance

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POP star Aviv Geffen must be allowed to per-form in Omer, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

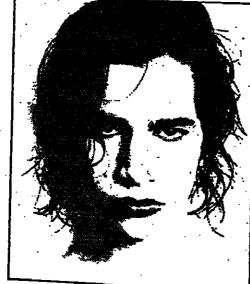
The ruling was issued in response to a petition by a group of Omer residents and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel. According to the petition, Omer Mayor MK Pini Badash (Tsomet) had refused to allow Geffen to perform in the municipal amphitheater because he disapproved of Geffen's moral and political values.

"A man who did not serve in the army, who calls our youth the 'screwed-up generation,' who calls the prime minister a drunk ... he is not on our list of priorities for the performances we will bring this summer." Badash explained in an interview on Channel 2 shortly after the decision was made.

Badash's attorney. Avi Weinroth, insisted at a hearing yesterday that Geffen's views had nothing to do with the decision. Geffen was only one of some 14 performers whose appli-cations to rent the amphitheater were turned down, he said, and the main reason for nixing Geffen was safety considerations. The city was worried that the amphitheater was not equipped to handle the kind of hard usage that usually accompanies a Geffen performance. However, Justices Aharon Barak. Dalia

Dorner, and Ya'acov Kedmi rejected this explanation, as it directly contradicted Badash's own statement on the matter.

"Clearly these reasons [as expressed in



Pop idol Aviv Geffen.

Badash's interview] are unacceptable," they wrote noting that Badash had not even tried to defend them. "One cannot veto a performance because of the political views of the per-

The petition also challenged Badash's decision to forbid Geffen's supporters to post a satirical poem on municipal bulletin boards. The poem criticizes Badash for banning the performance. Badash told the court he vetoed the poem based on a legal ruling that the city



should not allow the posting of slanderous

material, as he considered one statement in the poem to be slanderous: The statement that Badash should have known Geffen was exempted from the army for health reasons, since "in Tsomet they know how to obtain doc-

However, the justices ruled the city had no right to refuse to post the poem, noting that even Badash's attorney had admitted this dur-

Supreme Court partially overturns conviction of Afula rabbi

THE Supreme Court partially overturned the conviction of former Afula chief rabbi Peretz Zioni yesterday, but sharply criticized his

behavior on the remaining counts. The appellant, as a rabbi, should have served as a role model and punctiliously observed the legal and ethical norms. Instead, he treated public monies entrusted to him as his own." Justice Eliezer Goldberg wrote in his verdict.

Zioni, who served as the chief rabbi of Afula from 1975 until the High Court of Justice ordered him to step down in February, was convicted by Nazareth District Court on eight counts of theft, bribe-taking, fraud, and breach of trust. He was sentenced to six months of community service and given a NIS 150,000 fine. Zioni appealed both the conviction and the sentence; the state also appealed the sentence, saying it was too lenient.

The main charge against Zioni dealt with the years 1988-1992, during which he ran an office out of his home due to a feud with the local religious council. Zioni collected

various rabbinical fees, and according to his agreement with the Religious Affairs Ministry, he was allowed to keep a certain amount for office expenses. The remainder should have be given to the religious council. However, Zioni spent much more than the permitted amount for his own needs, on account of which he was convicted of theft and breach

Justices Goldberg, Eliahu Mazza, and Ya'akov Kedmi noted that most of Zioni's excess expenditures were for legitimate office expenses, such as electricity and computerization, This cannot be considered theft, they said. While he should not have exceeded his allotted budget from the ministry even for legitimate expenses, they added, the agreement was fuzzy enough that he could have thought he was entitled to these expenditures, and therefore they also

acquitted him of breach of trust. However, Goldberg and Mazza with Kedmi dissenting, upheld the conviction for two expenses which they deemed purely personal: Car insurance (NIS 584) and legal advice (NIS 13,719). Kedmi opined that these were also legitimate

All three justices also overturned Zioni's conviction on four counts of theft and bribe-taking for giving kashrut certificates to factories outside Afula's jurisdiction and then keeping the fees, instead of giving them to the religious council. The justices ruled that since these factories were not within the jurisdiction of any religious council, and the Religious Affairs Ministry has no clear rules on what to do in such a situation, it is not possible to convict Zioni for any violation of the rules. However, they strongly criticized the ministry for not having set clear

Finally, the justices overturned another bribe-taking conviction due to lack of evidence; commuted a seventh conviction, for bribe-taking and theft, to bribe-taking only; and commuted the final conviction, for theft and breach of trust, to breach of

Esther Pollard: Jonathan will be free before Rosh Hashana

JUDY SIEGEL

ESTHER Pollard, who ended a 19-day hunger strike in support of her husband Jonathan on Thursday night, is staying in Israel "for the time being" because she believes he will he released from his North Carolina prison very soon.

Pollard, a special education teacher in Toronto, had been due to return to Canada for the start of the school year on September 1. But former chief rabbi Mordechai Eliahu, who visited her husband in prison recently, and accompanied her to a meeting with Prime Minister

Binyamin Netanyahu on Thursday, said he believed Jonathan, convicted of spying for Israel, would be released "before Rosh Hashana." If that transpires, the Pollards intend to live in Israel.

Pollard, who broke her fast with a green salad after living only on water, sugar, and salts for more than two weeks, said the meeting with Netanyahu gave her much hope. The premier, she said. "spoke in a way that he had never spoken before and strongly committed himself to secure Jonathan's immediate release."

On the basis of that verbal commitment alone, she would not have ended the hunger strike, she said. But Eliahu's commitment that he would be "a guarantor" of the premier's statements were enough to make her do so.

"I wanted to wake up the nation and the government about the urgency of obtaining the release, and that is essentially what happened," Pollard said.

Grandfather has heart attack while family nearly drowns

A GRANDFATHER who had a heart attack while watching his daughter and two granddaughters nearly drown off Netanya on Saturday was still in intensive care

The Danizov family, which lives in Bnei Brak, was swimming in an area with no lifeguards at around 4:30 p.m. Saturday. The father, Vladimir, was the first to encounter trouble and shouted to his family to leave the water as he made his way to the beach with his mother-in-law. His wife, Yelena, and daughters, Olga, 12, and Vicky, 9, started to

drown, meanwhile, and he ran to a nearby beach to bring lifeguards. A lifeguard came and pulled the two girls from the water. Four other people pulled the mother from the rater. She was almost unconscious when she reached the beach, with water in her stomach and lungs.

The grandfather, Binyamin Rup, who was on the beach watching the incident, suddenly suffered a heart attack.

They were all brought to Laniado Hospital, where the mother and her daughters were in good condition



NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey appoints new chief of staff Turkey has appointed a new commander of its army in the traditional August command shuffle, the US-based Defense

News reported. Gen. Hikmet Koksal will take over on August 30. Koksal, 64, commander of the Istanbul-based 1st Army, will replace Gen. Hikmet Bayar, who is retiring after completing his two-year term, the weekly said.

Koksal was appointed at the end of an annual supreme military council meeting last week. While the council is headed by Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, it is not clear whether Koksal supports his anti-West and anti-Israel poli-

Arieh O'Sullivan

Regional radios set to go

Two more regional radio stations have received broadcast licenses from the Second Television and Radio Authority. They are the Arabic language Radio 2000 (as distinct from the pirate station with the same name), which will broadcast from Nazareth starting mid-September, and Kol Kulanu, whose area spans from Ashdod to Rishon Lezion and which will start broadcasting early next year.

These are the last two stations to receive licenses in the second round of regional radio tenders. Kol Rega (FM 96 and 91.5), the valleys' station, the Emek Hefer (FM 90) station Emtza Haderech, T.R.A. (FM 102) and the religious Kol Hai (FM 93) will commence operations on September 1

High school teachers threaten strike

The Teachers' Union has declared three work disputes throughout the secondary school system and threatened that the school year will not open on time unless the issues are settled. his members are demanding compensation for erosion to their salaries and say they will not teach at schools where there are no guards. The third issue is pension rights, with the teachers claiming that the government is not standing by its commitments to those retiring early.

Thuva workers strike

Tanva's 3,700 workers were to start a strike after midnight last night to demand higher wages. Except for fresh milk, no dairy products will be produced or distributed during the 24-hourwag strike, But the workers said they would make an exception for hospitals and the IDF. The workers have been discussing a work agreement with management for the past six months.

Departing today on her Maiden Voyage, joining her sister ships Zim Asia

Zim America • Zim Canada • Zim Italia Zim Korea • Zim Japan • Zim Hong Kong • Zim Israel







GROZNY (AP) - The battered Chechen capital witnessed one of the most quiet days in nearly two weeks yesterday as both Russian and rebel forces tried to avoid fighting and their commanders

met for negotiations.
However, outside of Grozny,
between the southwestern towns of Urus-Martan and Alkhan-Yurt. the rebels downed a military Mi-8 helicopter transporting food. Two crew members were killed and two were wounded, the Russian miligary command said.

Brief firefights also erupted in Grozny during the day yesterday and in the morning, Russian artillery shells rained on the city.

Rebel fighters, who control most of downtown Grozny with about 2,000 men deployed there, said the Russians tried before dawn to resupply their troops surrounded in isolated strongholds in the center. They were beaten back with heavy casualties, the rebels said.

The separatist offensive on Grozny, which began on Aug. 6, took Russian troops by surprise. Hundreds of Russian soldiers were killed in some of the worst fighting since troops were sent into Chechnya 20 months ago to end its bid for independence.

Gen. Konstantin Pulikovsky, the Russian commander in Chechnya, and Chechen chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov met to discuss setting up a joint commission to monitor the shaky truce that took effect last Wednesday.

Maskhadov gave Pulikovsky a copy of his order to rebel fighters formally establishing the truce and "zones of responsibility" in Grozny. Pulikovsky signed a simi-

lar order yesterday. The two commanders' deputies met in the southern village of Novye Atagi, about 25 km from Grozny, for what separatist spokesman Movladi Udugov called a discussion on "purely

Report: **Terrorists** murder 17 on Algerian bus

used a fake police barrier to stop a bus on a remote highway, then slit the throats of 17 passengers, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The respected independent daily El Watan said the macabre slaughter happened Thursday on a highway outside Ain Oussera, about 150 km south of Algiers. Authorities would neither con-

firm nor deny the report. If verified, it would be one of the worst mass killings this year in the North African nation bloodied by an Islamic insurgency.

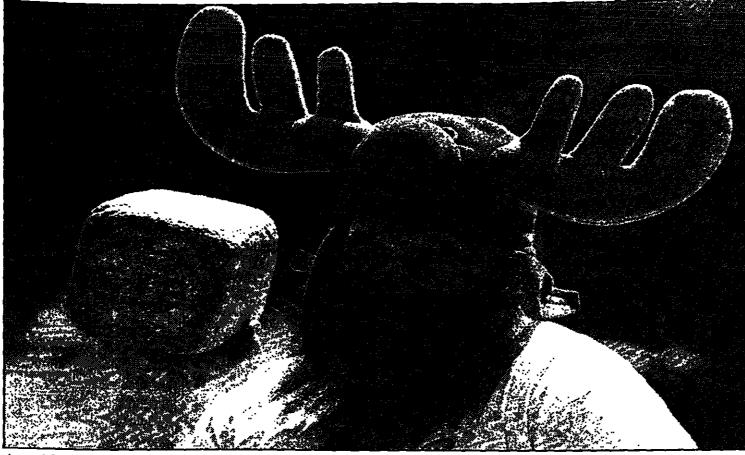
Witnesses told El Watan that the assailants set up a fake police barricade on the highway to force the bus to stop.

The victims, ages 17 to 25, were forced at gunpoint to get off the bus and were slain behind a large roadside bush, the newspaper said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the slayings. The Armed Islamic Group - the most violent of several terrorist factions trying to topple the Algerian government and install strict Islamic rule - has been blamed for most past attacks on civilians.

- Throat-slitting and decapitation are signature killing styles of the group. In May it beheaded seven French monks it had held for nearly two months.

More than 60,000 people have been killed since Algeria's insurgency began in January 1992.



A participant in the Swiss Stone Throwing Championships prepares to deliver his 12.5kg, missile at the event in Jaunpass, Bernese Alps at the weekend. Competitors participate in four different categories: 8kg., 12.5kg., 18kg., and 40kg.

(Reuter)

US military plane detailed to Clinton crashes

A military plane providing support for President Clinton slammed into a steep mountainside just after taking off late Saturday from Wyoming, where the president had been vacationing. Rescue workers found no sign of

survivors. One Secret Service employee and eight crew members were believed to have been aboard the plane, which burst into a fireball in rocky, remote terrain in the Grand Teton range, a White House spokeswoman said yesterday. And Lt. Cmdr. Karen Jeffries, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said the Air Force had confirmed that eight of its personnel were listed as being on the flight, a so-called "car plane" that is used to shuttle presidential vehi-

A government official said the cargo included a Secret Service vehicle used in presidential protection, but it was not believed to be a presidential limousine.

A National Park Service spokeswoman, Roberta D'Amico, said rescue workers on foot and horseback arrived at the crash site about 4:30 a.m. and found wreckage still smoldering but no survivors.

Clinton, who had left the area by helicopter more than five hours earlier, returned safely to ALGIERS (AP) - Armed terrorists the White House yesterday morning after a nine-day vacation during the Republican National Convention. He was notified of the crash early yesterday morning by deputy chief of staff Evelyn Lieberman.

RON FOURNIER WASHINGTON

culties and had started to return to the airport. But others cautioned against speculating on

why the plane went down. At the Pentagon, Jeffries said yesterday that the Air Force was dispatching specialists for the search and rescue mission from Hill Air Force Base in Utah.

The unit is specially trained to set up a security perimeter around crash sites and will be able to begin the service's investigation into

the tragedy.

Reports of the number of people aboard the

plane varied through the night. Earlier, Amette Heintz, spokesman for the Secret Service, said six crew members and one Secret Service agent were aboard. He said the employee is a "physical securities technician," who was part of the broad presidential protective team. Heintz said foul play was not

considered a factor. Heintz told CNN yesterday the plane was en route to John F. Kennedy Airport in New York and carried equipment used in support of the president's travel. Clinton was scheduled to fly to New York later yesterday.

The crash occurred at Sleeping Indian Mountain, a popular landmark known for a craggy rock peak shaped like an Indian chief laying on his back. It is located 20 km outside A Clinton administration official said the of the Jackson airport amid the Grand Tetons range, northwest of Jackson Hole.

"To me it looked like a fire brewing on Sleeping Indian," said Tim Tomkinson, night manager of Buskboard Cab Co. "I saw this guy (at the airport) who said he watched this plane take off heading south, and go left and then it blew up into a ball of flame.

Witnesses said fires lingered well after a mushroom-shaped fireball sent the starlit sky

Lightning had raced across the sky some five hours earlier, when Clinton left Jackson Hole by helicopter.

Jeff Brown, president of Jackson Hole Aviation said, "There's no weather associated right now at all. Nobody knows anything at this point except there was a lot of fire."

Dan Halloway, operations manager at Jackson Hole Aviation, fueled the plane and said the explosion happened about four or five minutes after takeoff.

Gini Bright, duty officer for the Federal Aviation Administration's northwest mountain regional office in Seattle, Washington, said there were seven people on board the

She said the plane was assigned to the Air Force's 39th Airlift Squadron based out of Dyess AFB and was en route to John F. Kennedy Airport in New York City. Clinton was traveling to New York yesterday.

"Whether they flew into the mountain lost control for some aircraft reason, we don't know," Brown said, "It could have been an inflight shift of cargo or who knows, engine failure, the whole gambit."

Belgian killer pedophile ring unearthed

TWO eight-year-old girls whose bodies were unearthed by Belgian police as part of a growing child sex scandal starved to death in captivity, investigators said yesterday.

Discovery of the remains brought to seven the number of dead girls found after a series of disappearances in Belgium dating back to 1989. Six other children are still missing and two girls were rescued alive on Thursday from a makeshift basement dungeon near the southern city of Charleroi.

Prosecutor Michel Bourlet told a news conference yesterday that police had pooled the files on all 15 children after the man who led them to the two girls' corpses admitted

further kidnappings.

Bourlet said Marc Dutroux, 39, an electrician, and some of the five other people held by police said they had kidnapped An Marchal, 19, and Eefje Lambrecks, 17, in August last

"Finding these girls is now the pri-onry," Bourlet said, adding that he

was hopeful of finding them alive.
Yesterday's confession by
Dutroux, who had been convicted of child rape seven years ago but later released, is another breakthrough in a case that has gripped this nation of 10 million people since the late

Doutroux admitted yesterday he had abducted girls and offered money to get children, officials said. In addition to the bodies of two girls, police found the body of a man, an apparent accomplice in the kidnappings, on the premises.

"Bring me a girl and you'll get 50,000 francs (NIS 5,000)," Dutroux told accomplices before two eightyear-olds were kidnapped last year and subsequently murdered, according to investigating magistrate Michel Bourlet.

Officials said a total of four people have been arrested so far in connec-

tion with the spate of abductions thought to be linked to a child pomography ring. The list of victims believed part of the same case has grown to a dozen.

Authorities discovered that Dutroux had constructed a 4-by-3 meter concrete cellar to hold the girls in his house some 60 km south of

Dutroux said the two children starved to death after he was briefly sent to prison for theft last December and an accomplice failed to feed them. He said he killed his accomplice, Bernard Weinstein, out of revenge and buried him together with the two children.

"We had never thought such horri-ble things were possible," magistrate Andre Vandoren, who heads a national investigating team for missing children, told the VTM television network. This incident is proof that (child pornography) cases should be closely followed."

Police rescued two girls, 12 and 14, from the secret cellar last Thursday before Dutroux led them to the tied-up bodies of the two eight-year-olds and his accomplice in his garden.

irnie t

andro:

grike

Over the past half decade, about a dozen Belgian children have disappeared without a trace and police were without a lead in their investigations until last week, when they were tipped off about Dutroux.

The two girls rescued are a 12year-old who had been missing since May 28 and a 14-year-old missing since last week.

The older girl had been kidnapped upon her return from a swimming pool Aug. 9 and was taken to the house where the younger one was held. She told her mother she was drugged for three days and raped several times. The 12-year-old had been in captivity in a concrete cage for over two months when the other girl joined her.

France stalls on African migrants in church

PARIS (Renter) - The French government stalled yesterday on its vow to expel 300 African immigrants, including 10 in the 45th day of a hunger strike, who have been holed up in a Paris church since June in hopes of obtaining residency papers.

The immigrants, joined by hundreds of French supporters at the Saint-

Bernard church, have said they fear that a police raid could come at any time after Prime Minister Alain Juppe said that letting them stay in France would violate the law.

The Africans took refuge in the church on June 28. Theyurged President Jacques Chirac to intervene but Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debre has said he is willing only to negotiate the terms of their depar-

After spending two sleepless nights awaiting police action, the Africans were speculating police would wait until today, when their sup-

porters will have left the site to return to work. Legal sources said the protesters had received orders to leave France within a month. For some the deadline had expired, for others it was

The far-right National Front has said it wants them "kicked out". Socialist opposition leader Lionel Jospin has urged talks to avoid a vio-

lent showdown A union at state-run airline Air France Europe called on pilots to refuse to fly the Africans home if they were expelled, but the govern-

ment could use military aircraft. The French military is supposed to liberate people. It is not intended to imprison them," said veteran activist and cancer specialist Leon Schwartzenberg told reporters at the church.

The protest was shaping up as a public relations nightmare for the Juppe government as celebrities and activists flocked to the church in the capital's multi-ethnic Goutte d'Or neighborhood to show their solidarity, including Danielle Mitterrand, widow of the late French presi-

Mandela tells ANC he won't run for second term

JOHANNESBURG (AP) President Nelson Mandela formally told his party he won't be on the ticket in 1999, the ANC said yester-

Mandela, who is 78, has said repeatedly he believes he is too old for a second term. His formal announcement that he will not run in elections scheduled for 1999, and that he also would not seek party leadership again, came during a weekend meeting of the ANC's top decision making body.

His African National Congress colleagues expressed their "respect for the president's decision as well as its profound appreciation of the sterling service he has rendered to the ANC and the country in a lifetime of struggle," according to a statement released yesterday.

During a visit to London earlier

this year, Mandela endorsed Deputy President Thabo Mbeki as his choice to take over the presidency. Mbeki is also Mandela's deputy within the ANC, and performs much as a prime minister in the South African govemment,

Meanwhile, Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, began his first visit to South Africa yesterday, saying his people's struggle had been encouraged by the peaceful transition from apartheid to democracy under President Mandela.

"The struggle for justice through non-violence now becomes reality." the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate told reporters on his arrival at Johannesburg airport from India.

"South Africa is an example of that. It very much encourages our non-violence freedom struggle," he

Certain persons related to ISRAEL MULSZTAJN (dec. Aug. 31, 1993, formerly of Melbourne, Australia; born in Miechow, POLAND in 1920, son of SHMUEL LIEB MULSZTAJN and SHANDEL MULSZTAJN née SYBIRSKA) may be entitled to share in his estate. If you are related to the deceased and claim an entitlement, would you please send details of your relationship to the solicitors for the estate named hereunder. An application is pending before the Supreme Court of Victoria, Australia, on August 29, 1996, for an order to distribute and wind up the estate.

Mr. Aiter F.L.A. PARTNERS 4th floor, 150 Queen Street Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia

pilot of the C-130 reported mechanical diffi-Russian airmen recount daring escape

SEVEN Russian airmen, elated after their daring escape from a year of captivity by Afghan Taleban militia, yesterday told of

months of secretly planning their flight to freedom. "We had been planning for more than half a year," aircraft radio operator Iouri Vshivtsev said in an interview before flying home from the United Arab Emirates with Russian Deputy Prime Minister

Vitaly Ignatenko. "We went over the smallest details of our plan many times and understood the extent of the risk," Vladimir Sharpatov, the captain of the crew, told Russia's Itar-Tass news agency.

"But we had the help of fate, fortune and just good luck."

The Russians, working for the Aerostan firm in the Russian Republic of Tatarstan, were taken hostage after a Taleban MiG-19 fighter forced their cargo plane to land in August 1995.

The opposition Taleban said its

HILARY GUSH

shipment of ammunition from

Albania was evidence of Russian military support for President Burhanuddin Rabbani's govern-

ality was coincidental.

was freedom and their families.

tant. Our families and children are waiting for us today," ground engineer Viktor Raizanov said. "I also want to see my dog."

home," another crew member said. After empty promises of freedom followed numerous diplomatic missions, their hopes of a negotiated liberation from detention in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar were dulled.

SHARJAH, UAE

Moscow said the crew's nation-The seven, smiling and waving

their hands and clenched fists in victory salutes outside a Sharjah hotel, said all that mattered now "We are free, nothing is impor-

"Home, home, we are going

'We were promised to be released very many times but nothing would happen," Vshivtsev said.

But on Friday the men saw their best chance of escape while doing regular maintenance work on their Dyushin-76 aircraft.

"The chance was very good and we couldn't miss it", Vshivtsev said, adding they escaped "very suddenly and very deceptively. It wasn't dependent only on us, I

think it was dependent on God." He said the crew had had various plans of escape, if their plane was not granted permission to fly over

Iranian airspace. Vshivtsev said after three attempts to start up the engines failed on Friday, Taleban leaders left them with three junior guards. The engines eventually started and the plane took off, narrowly missing two Taleban vehicles which

three seconds. We passed over the vehicles at the end of the runway. he said. The crew flew out their huge transport plane at treetop height to avoid radar detection. They over-

rushed to block their path.

"It was a little late, about five or

with Kalashnikov automatic rifles, and tied them up. A militia jet fighter and heli-copter had chased the fleeing plane but could not catch it, a Taleban spokesman said.

The crew were still trying to

powered the guards, two armed

comprehend their escape. "It was unbelievable yesterday and the day before but today we can believe (we are free)," Vshivtsev said.

The other crew members were Gazinur Khairullin, Alexandr Zdor, Askhat Abiazov and Sergey Butuzov, he said.

The three Taleban guards are being held by UAE police. (Reuter)











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كذا من ألاصل

Arts body catches a controversial bout of frostbite

UDITH Amon kissed Yossi Frost and burst into tears. "I to call you up at night any more," can't believe I won't be able she soobed.

Amon is the founder of the Kibbutz Dance Company. Frost is head of the Arts and Culture Authority (ACA), or was.

From September 1, someone else will be sitting in Frost's big swivel chair at ACA, because in mid-July Zevulun Hammer, the new education minister, unceremoniously dumped the man he called a political appointee from the previous administration.

Amon wasn't the only one. The office at 16 Hanatziv has been awash because "We had a very special constellation here that has made these three and a half years possible, and there's the feeling that this can't return, that there's been a disruption, an ending almost like a death, which accounts for the tears" says Frost.

The special constellation was Shulamit Aloni and Shimshon Shoshani at the Ministry of Science. Communication and the Arts. Avraham Shohat at the Treasury, and Frost.

Their combined efforts increased

the arts budget by 150 percent, from about NIS 100 million in 1992 to NIS 230m. last year, and around NIS 268m. for this one. Budgets given to individual institutions doubled and sometimes tripled. Theater went from NIS 23m. to NIS 69m., music from NIS 12m, to NIS 35m., dance and cinema from a pitiful NIS 5.5m. and NIS 4m. to NIS 145m. and NIS 16.5m. respectively; museums, the plastic arts, Arab culture, festivals, literature - all got a piece

of the pie. Frost was fired because it was Aloni who had appointed him in 1992, but 25 years of hands-on experience bolster his claim "that no one knows as much as I do."

Frost's inherent and justified selfconfidence is often mistaken for arrogance or boasting, and his selfconfessed big mouth and awesome vocabulary of four-letter words land him in hot water at fairly regnlar intervals. "But I calm down as fast as I blow up, and if I'm wrong, I admit it," he says.

For the moment, he continues to sit at his meticulously ordered desk at the ACA's Tel Aviv office, a big, broad-shouldered elegant man who, in another time and place, might have filled Gary Cooper's shoes on that street at High Noon.

been fired, but he does, because he is an unreconstructed idealist, and because there's so much left to do. It's only been three and a half years, but the period has had an intensity whose like I don't remem-

His door is always open so that he can yell, receive visitors, keep abreast. A gaggle of local awards and souvenirs (dolls, cars, gewgaws) from foreign trips traipse across the top of a low sideboard. and the givers "realize I'm a child, so they give me toys," he says.

HIS HAS been an active and controversial tenure. Frost is good copy - the mini-scandal over his dismissal is proof enough - but the controversies have also erupted on the ground and in the media over serious issues, such as the nowdefunct Rinat Choir, Habimah and Inbal and his feuding with Aloni played a featured role.

Of these Frost says "our disagreements were mostly over style. not substance. I was too aggressive for her, but I worked the way I did because from the beginning I felt my time was limited.

"I have nothing against bureaucrats, but bureaucracy is essentially anti-artistic, because the arts have

He pretends not to care that he's to be free," he says, before laying she staved off his resignation with seen fired, but he does, because he out the paradox he represents. some adroit wiles "that totally disout the paradox he represents.

The government must support the arts because "What are we if not our culture? What's left of of our 5,000 years of history but our culture? We have so much talent in

But if public money goes to support culture, he says earnestly, then the institutions must be properly accountable "and that's ACA's job. We exist to allow the arts to flourish according to their own criteria but within the public criteria of proper management."

Which is precisely what Rinat,

Inbal and Habimah had not been doing "and for years. Everybody knew, but did nothing. We weren't afraid to tackle those open sores." He could have said sacred cows, because the Inbal Dance Company, founded in the '60s by the inimitable Sara Levi-Tanai, and the Rinat Choir, founded by Gary Bertini in 1955, had become cashswallowing anachronisms. Rinat is disbanded and Inbal has metamor-

Habimah, the country's national theater, and the third holy bovine, was the big uproar of Frost's tenure. Hahimah's many crises led to an open break with Aloni, but

phosed into the Inbal Ethnic

armed me."

Habimah grabbed headlines for a year from the time Gary Bilu and David Alexander became its managers in spite of Frost's loud

Within the year, the two were fired in disgrace, the debt-ridden theater went into receivership and Ya'acov Agmon, formerly Frost's boss, now his protege, was anointed as Habimah's savior and new general manager. It is entirely in character that today Frost and his erstwhile champion are not speak-

BORN AND raised in Tel Aviv, where he lives with his wife of 33 years, Batya, and their three sons, Frost, now 59, was the golden boy of 1960, a singer and a star. But his performing career ended with a chorus of boos when he muffed a number during a show.

He went into production and says that while "it was never a substitute for performing, what fascinated me then and now is how you make things work. I worked backstage even when I was performing." He ran arts and trade fairs, assis-

tant produced the state's 12th anniversary events, parmered



Yossi Frost: What are we if not our culture? (Israel Sun)

Agmon in a production company and from 1975 to 1986 ran the government-funded Omanut La'am which, under his management, grew from a modest institution to a country-embracing arts impresario. During that tenure Frost also initiated the Acre, Carmiel, Arad, and Trends in Dance Festivals, as he has promoted the Fringe Theater ahead."

Center, the NEXT Alternative Music and Poetry Festivals during

The poetry festival which debuted at Metulla in June was his baby. Poetry has grabbed him more and more in recent years - "It's concentrated, it hits you the way a good cartoon does, and besides, poets in this country have always been literary underdogs."

One longtime failure goads him, that of trying to create an Israel Council "which would export Israeli culture, especially to the Jewish communities of the Diaspora, otherwise we'll lose them."

He first outlined the proposal in a position paper he sent to Hammer in 1978. Now he'll do it by himself, through RST, the company the founded in 1990 and will reactivate after September 1.

David Alexander is being touted. as Frost's successor at ACA but all the Education Ministry will say to that is "no comment."

Frost doesn't want to say anything about his possible successor

But he has warned the ministry ' not to cut the culture budget "because culture can't stagnate or mark time. It always has to forge

Arnie the android strikes again

ADINA HOFFMAN

ERASER

Directed by Charles Russell. Screenplay by Tony Puryear and Walon Green. Hebrew title: Eraser. 107 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not

Robert Deguerin ..

NE of the ugliest, noisiest, crudest and most upsetting action pictures in recent memory, Eraser marks a gruesome new low in the history of the genre. In more immediate, physical terms, 107 minutes of nearly constant violent climax are enough to leave anyone dizzy and shaking: three-quarters of an hour after the film ended, my ears still rang and my teeth continued to ache from

protracted gritting. Eraser is not entertaining; it's obvious and cruel and it batters an audience into passive submission. The movie works like one of the high-power assault weapons it glorifies, blasting away any last trace of our sensitivity before we've even had a few seconds to think or feel. Then it riddles us with gory effects till we flop there, limp and defeated, too exhausted by the barrage to protest. In comparison, this summer's other action movies -Independence Day, Mission Impossible - come to seem subtly comic, dramatically refined and morally downright commendable.

The main difference between those films and Eraser lies in the former's sense of daredevil play and jokey self-deprecation, alongside the latter's grimly straight-



Trigger happy: Don't jump the line when Schwarzenegger's out shopping.

ahead approach to violence. Despite the occasional robotic delivery of some perfunctory by

ounchline Amold Schwarzenegger before he pumps a few rounds into the gut of an alleged bad guy, the film is thoroughly humorless. (There is one goofy character, played by Robert Pastorelli, who tags along for "comic" relief, but his gags aren't amusing, and his presence only serves to underscore the film's deeply unfunny nature.)

Eraser also lacks all trace of originality, and instead attempts to coast along on the preestablished "charm" and "talents" of Amie the Android. Here he plays another larger-than-life title character, a federal marshal in the witness-pro-

tection program. He's a muscular and computer-savvy thug whose job it is to "erase" witnesses whose lives are in danger. He stages their deaths, delivers them to safety, and vanishes with a wink.

This time around, he's assigned by his leering boss (James Caan) to keep tabs on a beautiful defense contractor (Vanessa Williams) who has decided to turn state's witness against her employers. It seems some important, pasty-faced, gov-emment officials (on loan from a John Grisham novel) are in cahoots with the powers that be at her company, and plan to sell a shipment of top-secret electromag-netic automatic rifles to the Russian mafia.

Charles Russell and screenwriters Tony Puryear and Walon Green that they have so many nifty, lethal props around to keep the story moving and the body count rising. These state-of-the-art rocketlauncher thingamajigs figure prominently in the action, and we have many chances to observe how they X-ray their victims' skeletons before firing, then shoot green, smoky, laser-like beams that send

the fresh corpses hurdling backward in a grotesque final flight. Besides all the requisite death and destruction, the sickest aspect of a movie like Eraser is its creators' cynical approach to repetition and innovation. The filmmakers rely on the fact that people who come to see a Schwarzenegger pic-

ture want to watch the Teutonic monster offing as many nameless, faceless people as is physically possible in a few hours' time.

Meanwhile, these same fans also expect to see something "new" for their money - some untried shtick with a burning airplane engine, a man-eating alligator or a grenade that explodes in a shower of sharpened drill bits.

Its narrow and literal invention notwithstanding, there's little room left in the film for real creativity, let alone inspiration. Of course Schwarzenegger will come out on top in the end. Of course he'll get the bad guys. Of course he'll save the girl. Like so much of American pop culture these days, Eraser offers fantasy without imagination.

A diva's fun in the sun

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

French girl was in Israel to visit her family. Now, at 22, Nora Amsellem is back as one of the major young opera stars in the world. Last year, she made her professional debut at one of the most prestigious opera houses in the world - the Metropolitan in New

Having studied voice for just three years Amsellem was accepted into the Metropolitan's young artists program in 1994, one of the very few non-Americans to be admitted to the program. "In the second year of this great program in which I really studied a lot, they let us sing minor roles with the company," very minor roles that is. But not Amsellem, who got two star roles, Micaela in Carmen and Liu in Turandot. And now her diary is filled with dates at leading opera companies, including Paris and San Francisco.

Amsellem always wanted to-sing but she began her musical career as a harpist, playing the instrument for 10 years before switching to study voice at age 17.

This past week local opera buffs had a chance to hear Amsellem sing the role of Susanna in Mozart's Le Nozze di Figaro as part of the Israel Vocal Arts Institute summer program, a role she would probably never sing in the opera house. "Susanna doesn't show my voice at it's best. But I haven't been in Israel for a while and I don't have a lot of stage experience so I decided to come here." It was also an opportunity to work closely with boyfriend Denis Sedov, the young Israeli bass who is also a member of the Met's young artists program and who sang the role of igaro in the IVAI production.

For me it was really an exercise to move on stage and to work with Denis." But when Amsellem meets Mozart's masterpiece again, next summer at England's most prestigious opera festival Glyndebourne, it will be in the role of the countess which undoubtedly suits her voice much better.

Born to an Algerian Jewish father and an Irish mother, Amsellem grew up in Paris neither as a Jew

DECADE ago a young nor as a Catholic. "I wasn't brought up as anything, which is very French, But I certainly feel much more Jewish than Catholic. Yes I've been to Ireland and it's nice and beautiful there, but there's very little to do." Here she plans to visit Eilat and the Dead Sea later this week.

Amsellem is quite ready for the life of an opera star roaming the globe, flying from one opera house to another. "I know it's difficult but I always wanted to do this and it's fun. I love doing it and it's worth the sacrifice." The only aspect of the opera world she could do without is the loneliness. "It gets very difficult to move and not to have a real home base. It gets very solitary and you have to have your own internal world to survive." She admits that she has very little time for non-operatic activities. "I like Brazilian music and movies and I read a lot but there's really very little time for that."

As Susanna in Figaro last week, Amsellem showcased a captivating stage presence. But opera fans who really want to hear her at her best should travel to Lyon or Paris where she sings Micaela, a role she will also perform at the opening night of the 1997/98 season of the Met with Placido Domingo as Jose and James Levine on the podium. And there is also Liu in San

Francisco in the same year. Amsellem's meteoric rise to stardom does not frighten her, rather it is quite exciting she argues, repeat-ing the word "fim" again and again. She enjoys singing in the major opera houses of the world in spite of her young age. "The fact that I'm so young does not really matter and I don't like people speaking too much about my age, it has noth-

ing to do with the way I sing."

The soprano cannot wait to return to Israel and sing a role that will really showcase her artistry. like Micaela or Liu, or maybe even the lesser-known Louise. Until that happens though, Nora Amsellem will cherish every moment of her first Israeli summer in a decade, a summer of romance, a little bit of learning experience and lots of sun-

Dance duo celebrates marriage with new show

How convenient for director

HERE ARE many exotic diately invited us to perform at the places around Israel to spend your honeymoon but Kibbutz Kfar Menahem is probably not one of them. But this is exactly where duo dancers/choreographers Noa Wertheim and Adi Shaal, both aged 30, celebrated their recent wedding, with a 10day intensive rehearsal period for a new work which they will perform three times only, this Wednesday at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem

Four years ago Wertheim and Shaal were members of the now defunct Tamar Dance Company in Jerusalem. "We didn't know where we were going at the time," Wertheim recalls as she speaks by phone from Kfar Menahem during a short break between rehearsals. "We did one show at Habama in Jerusalem and Zipi Adar from the Israel Museum saw us and imme- time. "We are thinking about a full

museum. It was very brave of her because we were utterly unknown at the time. But she took the risk and presented us at the first ever Gallery in Motion program at the museum." And now the two are

in Motion at the Israel Museum.

The wedding, which "we did since we decided about it," is not the only change in the couple's life. Artistically they are somewhat changing as well. The two began performing as a duo with members

returning for yet another Gallery

very quietly and within a month the very energetic name of Vertigo. Now they have their own company of six dancers, with four including Wertheim's younger sister, Rina (21). They are also working with

live musicians, Steven Hornstein

and Jeffrey Kowalsky, for the first

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

length evening with live music with Hornstein, so this is definitely the first step for us." At the museum they will per-

form at the modern art wing in front of a painting by Anselm Kiefer. "The new piece has some improvisation in it, but a lot of it is set in advance. We were twice in the museum working within the space and around the painting. But it is nothing more than a set for us and so we could have done most of the rehearsals in the studio without it. But there is no doubt that the space provides its own atmosphere which influenced us a lot. The piece itself is very femi-

Wertheim and Shaai continue to perform their previous program, Symbiosis, with which they are here," living and working

appeared recently in France. "We have some performances in Vienna next month and later on in Germany as well. And then in about half a year we will have our new program out." And so in spite of the fact that the museum event will be a one time only performance, albeit repeated three times during the evening, "for us it is not something we are wasting. It is part of a process and we eventually use everything that we do."

WERTHEIM admits that she and Shaal sincerely considered leaving Jerusalem because of lack of financial support in the city. "But Goni Zur from the Jerusalem Foundation was doing all she could to keep us here. She gave us as much as she could - which was not much but was at least something - and so for the moment we

from their beautiful home in Ein Kerem, "I'm too busy in creating these days to actually think where I want to live. I will live wherever I can create. But I'm already 10 vears in Jerusalem and I like it

Are there any regrets for spending the honeymoon working? "Are you kidding? This is the greatest pleasure in life. Just let me forget everything, get away and work, that's the best thing in And so local dance buffs who

have enjoyed the energetic and powerful work of Vertigo in the past can come Wednesday to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and see whether the married Shaal and Wertheim look different on stage and whether the interaction with live music has effected the way they perform and create.

Yad Vashem recital: A song for those voices lost in the Holocaust

THEN Yad Vashem a couple of years back introduced concerns into the Valley of the Communities, the decision aroused considerable controversy. Because the valley was originally called The Valley of the Lost Communities, there were those who considered it inappropriate to have musical events in what was a symbolic grave-

Those in favor of the concerts, contended that music had been the morale booster which had enabled many of those who had survived the camps to endure.

In fact, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, himself a camp survivor, recalled last week at Yad Vashem how on the last Pessah before they came, the songs they sang and the songs

GREER FAY CASHMAN

the liberation, voices had been raised in all the camps to sing the traditional Jewish songs of freedom. The songs had been sung in Hebrew, Ladino, Yiddish and the native tongues of the inmates - but the unifying factor had been that these were the songs which celebrated the deliverance of the Children of Israel. "We had no marzot," said Lau. "Some people had a couple of pieces of bread; but you could hear the singing everywhere."

It was important, he stressed, to remember

not only the Jews who perished in the

Holocaust, but also the cultures from which

they never got to sing.

The recital on this occasion was by cantor Alberto Mizrahi accompanied by pianist Rakefet Hak. A second generation Holocaust survivor, Mizrahi, who was born in Athens, spends a lot of time in Israel and lives in the US, sang in Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino and

The two English renditions The Lord is my Shepherd and Jerusalem is Mine were what Mizrahi described as "a little Hollywoodish," and indeed, the melodies composed respectively by Meir Finkelstein and Kenny Keren, seemed to be hybrids of The Man of La so beautifully the songs they all remembered.

Mancha and The Sound of Music.

Mizrahi is an emotional man, who is keenly aware of Holocaust history. Sometimes the history behind the song got the better of him, and his glorious tenor voice wavered as he lost control. In the concert hall, this might have been to his detriment. In the Valley, it endeared him even more to an audience composed largely of Holocaust survivors, their spouses and other relatives.

A man, representing a large group of survivors from Saloniki, twice took the initiative to mount the podium to declare briefly how much it meant to them to have Mizrahi, the son of another Greek Holocaust survivor, sing



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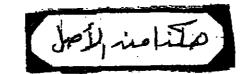
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Jordan's economic earthquake

THE bread riots that erupted over the with Israel, Amman hoped to reap the fruits of weekend in southern Jordan, and which spread to the capital Amman, are a worrying sign of instability in the Hashemite kingdom. These are the worst disturbances to hit Jordan since 1989. Impoverished Jordanians took to the streets, throwing rocks at troops and assaulting government buildings with a rare unbridled defiance. The root of the problems are economic - widespread poverty beyond wealthy west Amman, fewer jobs for an expanding population, and a dwindling middle class highlighting the gap between the very rich and the very poor. If these conditions are not addressed, and quickly, the tremors may reverberate throughout this region, bringing serious problems for the existing peace treaty and future peace process.

The unrest began after the government's decision to cut drastically state subsidies for bread and animal fodder. With foreign debts of \$5 billion to \$6b., and a budget deficit nearing \$600 million a year, Jordan had little choice but accept the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund. The IMF had correctly pointed out that Jordan could ill afford to continue spending \$54m. a year subsidizing basic foodstuffs. As a first step towards extricating the country from its growing economic crisis, the government went ahead and doubled the price

of bread on August 13.

In a televised address after the unrest flared, King Hussein sought to rally his people around the flag by asserting that the riots were the work of "ideological and religious forces located outside of Jordan's borders." It is possible the immediate spark that ignited the riots was struck by outsiders seeking to undermine Hussein's regime - there are plenty of regional states, including Syria and Iran, with accounts to settle with the Jordanian monarch. Nevertheless, the fact remains that it is the underlying economic crisis which is the root cause of the unrest, and for that the blame lies with the government's own misguided policies.

The kingdom's troubles took a turn for the worst during the Gulf War. By openly backing Saddam Hussein after his invasion of Kuwait, King Hussein invoked the wrath of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Arab emirates. They immediately cut off aid to the Jordanian monarch, and expelled hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who had been living and working in their territory. Jordan was forced to take in most of the refugees, adding new strains to an already weak economy. Since then UN sanctions imposed on Iraq and cooler Jordanian ties with Saddam have cut deeply into Amman's trade with what used to be its primary market. For years the consequent pressures have been mounting on the

Jordanian treasury. It was these pressures which led to a turnaround in Jordanian policy. By coming to terms

CLOUD-CUCKOO-LAND

29, "Jakobovitz calls for division of

Jerusalem." Assuming that Lord Ja-

kobovitz was correctly quoted in the

Sunday Telegraph, his proposals ad-

vocating a functional division of Is-

rael's capital and giving up the Go-lan to Syria can only be described as

Such remarks were as ill-advised

as they were ignorant of the situa-

tion on the ground; they are doing a

disservice to the rabbinate, the State

of Israel and the Jewish people.

They can serve no useful purpose

except encouraging Israel's enemies

and those opposed to a genuine

If Lord Jakobovitz really believes

that the Palestinians will be satisfied

with an "enclave" in the city, when

Yasser Arafat is proclaiming at ev-

ery available opportunity that "Je-

rusalem is the capital of Palestine,"

or that President Assad would agree

peace in the Middle East.

utterly deplorable.

Sir, - I refer to your report of July

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

peace, much as Egypt did after the signing of the Camp David agreements. As a reward for the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty, President Bill Clinton erased Jordan's \$700m. debt to the United States. And in recent weeks, Jordan and Saudi Arabia began at last to heal the rift between them as Hussein paid his first visit to Riyadh in years. But these measures may prove to be too little too late, if Jordan does not succeed in pulling itself out of its current crisis.

The riots cannot help but focus renewed attention from King Hussein's friends and enemies alike on whether the Jordanian regime is going to survive. Jordan's political system has long been considered relatively stable by the standards of the Middle East. Yet the anger and fury demonstrated by the protesters must lead to the conclusion that there is more than empty stomachs behind the unrest. The monarchy has been edging towards democracy but, although Jordanians have been able to elect parliamentarians to represent them, ultimate power and authority resides in the palace. This is not without reason - the lessons of Algeria, Egypt and Bahrain are a grim reminder that in the Middle East democracy is seen by Islamic fundamentalists as no more than a tool for gaining the power to overthrow the establishment, and then democracy itself. The catch is that even in the Middle East, a government must retain a great measure of legitimacy and respect in the eyes of the people to survive the dislocation that follows severe economic measures.

Perhaps by accelerating economic cooperation with Jordan, Israel and the United States could in some small way ease Jordan's predicament. The peace with Jordan is an important anchor for any other regional peace that may one day come about. Were the Jordanian regime to collapse there is little doubt thatthe replacement would not be to the liking of Israel or the West. Neither would the change bode well for the peace process, and it could lead to the radicalization of other countries in the region.

Ultimately, however, it is King Hussein who

must solve the problems confronting his country. He is no doubt well aware of how bread riots in Egypt in 1977 nearly succeeded in undermining the rule of Anwar Sadat. This might explain his readiness to use an "iron fist," as he has suggested, to quell the violence. While such a policy may succeed in the short term, the anger will no doubt continue to simmer underneath the surface. If he wishes to ensure the stability of Jordan, and of the peace process as well, Hussein can start by engaging in widespread political, and not just economic, reforms. Satisfying the people's stomachs, without gratifying their political aspirations, will only lead to further crises down the road. Only by opening up Jordan's political system, as well as its economy, can Hussein hope to put his country back on the right track.

THE HAREDI PSYCHE

extreme of the major haredi organi-

zations, consistently repudiates

throwing stones and other acts of

violence. They even put up signs

specifically to this effect in all har-

edi neighborhoods before the big

I won't deny that we have some

youngsters who occasionally lose

themselves and act irresponsibly

and not in accordance with Ortho-

dox Jewish teachings, but on the whole, that is not characteristic of

all forms, and the drug abuse in

society at large, we have nothing to

If Elaine Kallet honestly wants to

understand haredim, she should try

other side of the story instead of

writing libelous letters to the paper.

YISROEL ABRAMSON

NOT CONSTRUCTIVE

Sir, - You have a very good pa-per, read by thousands each day. I

know, for I sold it here in Safed for

21 years to tourists and locals alike.

Post changed from left to centre-

right, giving a lot of space to all different views, even the ones not so popular like Uri Avnery. Good for

But once or twice a week, we

have the outburst of Michal Yudel-

man attacking the new government

and its ministers, right-wing politi-

cians and Jews: Orthodox, funda-

mentalists, anything "Jewish" is being treated as filth and insects.

Never has the lady been constructive

In the meantime, the policy of the

to approach them herself to see the

Compared with the violence, in

the haredi community.

be ashamed of.

demonstration this past month.



The governor still rules

The Governor of the Bank of Israel, Prof Jacob Frenkel. has just been given another five-year term. There is no ques-tion that among he is held in high esteem by monetarists, particular-ly of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund from whence he came. He probably would have got his second term had Labor remained in power. And yet there are many question marks around this appointment.

Never has there been a governor of the Bank of Israel whose relations with the Finance Ministry have been so tense and lacking in harmony. Both Labor's Avraham (Beiga) Shohat and the Likud's Dan Meridor clashed with Frenkel over his policy of high interest rates. Neither objects to high interest rates on principle, but both view it as a tool to be used with care, and as part of a well-coordinated, overall policy. An overwhelming majority of local industrialists and bankers are opposed to Frenkel's policy. And so was the Bank of Israel's own Research Department when headed until recently by the finance minister's wife, Dr. Liora

High interest rates were part of the package of measures used by the National Unity Government in 1985 to bring down Israel's threedigit rate of inflation. Shimon Peres was prime minister and Yitzhak Moda'i, finance minister. est rates have resulted in the The cost, at the time, was extremely high. Everyone who owed money to the banks including the kibbutzim, moshavim, many private businesses and thousands of individual households - went bankrupt or sank into deep financial difficulties. But the situation was desperate, and desperate measures were

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

required, including the high interest rates

TODAY THE situation is different. True, the annual rate of inflation is once again in the lower two-digit range, but it is a far cry from the 23% monthly rate of the mid-1980s, which Moda'i and Peres contended with successfully "Economic their Stabilization Plan." Frenkel admits that the only way to push Israel's rate of inflation down to a

Frenkel cannot be left alone at the helm

single-digit figure, is to cut gov-

ernment expenditure, but adds that in the absence of real budgetary cuts, high interest rates are temporary alternative.

It is a temporary alternative that has lasted for several years. Perhaps had Frenkel been appointed Finance Minister - and he was Netanyahu's favorite professional candidate for the post he might have managed to cut the budget, despite all of the political constraints. But he wasn't, and the budget doesn't look like it will

be cut in the foreseeable future. In the meantime the high intercountry being flooded with hot money which is keeping Israel's reserves unnaturally high and the dollar rate of exchange unreasonably low, thus encouraging imports and discouraging exports. The high interest rates are also partly responsible for the sad state of Israel's capital market and for hurting the poorest sectors in the

population: those who are in chronic debt, and whose overdraft at the bank simply grows as the rate of interest rises.

Whenever Frenkel is asked about the effect of his policy on Israel's underprivileged citizens, his face goes blank and he mumbles some professional formula which would win him a punch in the nose if he were to dare utter it the center of a development town.

When Frenkel was first appointed by Moda'i, back in 1991 he inspired a sense of confidence. Today, whenever I see him on television I wonder why, despite all the opposition, both Peres, and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu seem to be captivated by him.

Certainly we are no longer at a stage of our economic development where the World Bank and IMF can force us to have one of "their boys" run our monetary policy without any checks and balances. So what exactly is going on?

Despite its solid foundations, the Israeli economy is heading for a tough time, which Netanyahu's Thatcherism, the highly sectarian make-up of his government and the standstill in the peace process aren't going to make easier. Israel's economic captains are going to have to use every trick they can find in their books to keep the economy on an even keel. Frenkel cannot be left alone at the helm. If he is to inspire confidence in both the Prime Minister and the general public, he must be seen to be working in concert within the framework of a team, that includes more than just monetarist parrots who see the be all and end all in high interest

The writer is a political scien-

No-go for cars

YIZHAR EYLON

ars pollute the environment, contribute to global warming, are involved in traffic accidents and create congestion on the highways and streets. They also contribute to the local (im)balance of payments: cars, spare parts and oil are 100 percent import-

The public, aware of the damage mostly in the context of traffic accidents, is demanding tougher laws, stricter enforcement and more and better highways. The first two measures are punitive, applied after the damage is done, and do nothing to lessen pollution and congestion. The third one new highways - is only temporary measure because after a few years new highways become as congested as the old

Since 1960, the number of cars in Israel has increased some 28 times as fast as the number of humans. And how long will it be be possible to build new roads here when 17 percent of the land is already urbanized or paved over?

The inescapable conclusion is that car owners must be persuaded to leave their vehicles at home and use public trans-

Recently, the idea of charging the car owners for the road use, not only on certain highways, but on any publicly owned road, has been discussed. Perhaps the most powerful argument in support of this suggestion is the fact that motorists do not bear the full cost - in accidents, congestion. pollution - of car use. Charging them for each car trip makes them pay also for the

indirect cost of operating a car. The technology required for collecting tolls efficiently already exists, but governments in democratic countries lack the will to use it, because universal road fees are a political poison. In any case, a trial conducted in Stuttgart last year demonstrated that to transform car drivers into public transport passengers, the charges must be quite high. There the toll of DM 4 decreased the number of car trips only by five percent on working days

It's time for business class on buses and trains

and 10 percent on weekends. To make road pricing politically feasible, the charges must be reasonable and car drivers must be psychologically compensated for leaving their vehicles at home and "suffering the indignity" of traveling on public transport.

NUMEROUS STUDIES indicate that a car is not only a means of transport for its owner.

It also serves other functions, important for self-image and psychological wellbeing. It is a powerful, visible status symbol. It is a channel of personal expression, telling about the lifestyle (real or pretended) of its owner. It is also a freedom symbol, potentially a vehicle for escape from the humdrum of everyday life and a sign of being self-reliant and not dependent upon others.

On a deeper, unconscious level - predominantly for men - it is a body symbol and a means of vicariously gratifying sexual fantasies.

Introducing a business class on buses and trains may well be a way to compensate the motorists who switch to public transport for at least some of these functions. Users of business class will pay more and in return will get more: maybe newspapers and magazines, cold and hot drinks, wider seats, photocopy and fax machines, the assistance of a journey attendant and perhaps even separate waiting lounges and bonus points for frequent travellers. They will also feel self-important by avoiding journeying with the hoi polloi.

There is not much new in this proposal. Airlines - although for different reasons - successfully introduced business class many years ago. It is about time to apply the concept to land transport.

Of course, the introduction of a business class by itself is insufficient. It will work only together with the use of tolls. It will only decrease private car use, not eliminate it. It is also unlikely to stop consumers from buying cars, but an immobile vehicle, impressing the neighbors at home, causes much less harm than when it is driven around.

The writer is a psychologist.

the (Jordan) Rift Sir, - I am writing in reference to Retaining Elaine Kallet's letter of August 8, "Shameful behavior." The reason

why she cannot understand the haredi psyche is because all her infor-The dramatic events in mation on haredim comes from the Jordan last weekend, in disinformation about them, unintenwhich rioting broke out tional and deliberate, in the secular over the government's tripling of the price of bread and other food Kallet refers to rabbis who constaples, should serve as a reminder to Israel of the crucial done throwing stones and violence when, in fact, there isn't even a importance of retaining the single recognized rabbi who con-Jordan Rift Valley in any final dones such things. Even the Eda division of the country with the Haredit, considered to be the most

Palestinian Authority.

According to a draft agreement concluded last fall between then deputy foreign minister Yossi Beilin, the close confidant of former prime minister Shimon and Yasser Arafat's Peres, deputy Abu Mazen, Israel would have agreed to eventually yield the Jordan Rift Valley to Palestinian sovereignty. Peres refused to approve the agreement publicly so close to the elections. but there can be little doubt that its main outlines would have formed the basis for the Labor government's positions in final stage negotiations with the Palestinians had Labor been

reclected

Beilin's reasoning was that the Jordan Rift Valley would be sacrificed in exchange for Palestinian acquiesence to Israel's eventually annexing the western fringes of Samaria and areas around Greater Jerusalem. The Israeli interest in such a trade-off was-that over 70 percent of the settlers live in those areas which the Palestinian negotiators under Abu Mazen would have been ready to concede to Israel in exchange for Israel's recognizing Palestinian statehood; locating the Palestinian capital in eastern Jerusalem; and ceding the Jordan Rift Valley and other parts of the

ISRAEL'S REASONS for retaining the Jordan Rift, which stretches from south of the Beit She'an Valley to the northern shores of the Dead Sea and continues on to the Arava Valley,

have always been strategic rather than ideological. The large majority of Israel's strategic planners have argued that retention of the Jordan Rift - and its connection to coastal Israel by a trans-Samaria military highway is essential to meet the potential threat of a concerted Arab invasion from the east.

YOSEF GOELL

Geopolitical developments in the region over the past eight years, including the end of the Iraq-Iran war, the Gulf War with

Whatever Palestinian entity emerges cannot abut on any part of the Hashemite Kingdom

Iraq and its aftermath; and the collapse of the Soviet Union as the main political supporter and arms supplier of Israel's Arab enemies, have not altered the validity of those arguments.

If the diplomatic process with the Palestinians does not collapse entirely - and there is every reason to believe that it will not given the US interest in its successful conclusion - there will be final stage talks. By definition, these will be based on the hammering out of a painful but unavoidable territorial compromise between Israel and the

In such a compromise, the crucial importance of retaining the Jordan Rift ranks just behind that of retaining all of the Golan Heights, and far ahead of keeping Hebron, or isolated settlements in the Gaza Strip or the heart of the Palestinian-populated parts of Judea and Samaria. There is an equally important -

but rarely mentioned - reason for Israel's retaining the Jordan Rift in its entirety: making absolutely certain that whatever Palestinian entity emerges from the final stage talks does not abut on any part of the Jordanian Kingdom. This is a vital interest which Israel and the ruling Hashemite family of Jordan share.

There is a double purpose in preventing such a link, One is to keep arms smuggling from Jordan to the Palestinian entity down to an absolute minimum. It was revealed only last week that arms were being smuggled from Jordan into the Palestinian territories by boat across the Dead Sea. More important still is preventing the Palestinians from taking part in any future uprising against King Hussein and his successors in Jordan.

As uncomfortable as it may be, one must consider possible future scenarios. Any future struggle over the succession in Jordan is likely to involve a major uprising of the forces which oppose the Hashemites and are largely synonymous with the opponents of the peace treaty with Israel. That uprising will far overshadow in intensity this weekend's food riots or the ones which broke out several years ago. It is impossible to predict who will win such a confrontation. But clearly it is in Israel's interest to do everything possible to prevent the opponents of King Hussein and of the peace treaty from prevailing. For that reason, it is essential that the Palestinians be prevented from using their military power-no matter how puny-to support the anti-Hashemite rebels.

The writer comments on cur-

to Jewish settlers living on the Golan under Syrian sovereignty, then it is he who is living in cloud-cuckooland, not the Israelis who two months ago voted for Binyamin Ne-

London.

tanyahu as their prime minister.

R. WILLERS

Likud/Herut GB

Executive Committee,

OVERDRAFTS Sir, - Overdrawing a bank account is a national disease which invites one to live above one's financial possibilities. The overdraft educates people towards a lack of responsibility and leads to squander-ing assets which do not exist. The overdraft avoids creating a favorable climate for savings, the basis of

any national economy.

Without any doubt, abolishing overdrafts will greatly contribute to-wards the recuperation of our economy. Moreover, the beneficial sideeffect will be the lessening of the high interest rate prevailing in our

The banks are the only ones who profit from this harmful system. Therefore, it is to be expected that they will fight tooth and nail to avoid abolishing the overdraft, an important source of their gains. HERBERT COHN

HOTEL SUITE

Sir, - I refer to the article of July 29, 'Thousand-dollar hotel room launches controversy for prime min-

ister's wife." I travel to Sweden many times yearly and always stay at the Grand Hotel, the same hotel at which a reservation had been made for Mrs.

Several years ago, there was an International Socialist conference in Stockholm during one of my visits. When my wife and I exited the elevator, there was massive security on our floor and we were told Mr. Shimon Peres of Israel was occupying a snite and that we should not be too alarmed at the extent of the security.

During the course of the next few days, we observed Mr. Peres being chauffeured in and around the city in limousines with all the attendant honor due him. No doubt, the objective reporting by Israel Radio would have excused Mr. Peres for this indulgence as, no doubt, he needed to contemplate the status of the poor, downtrodden of the world in the comforts of his luxurious suite. LOUIS B. SCHOEN

Jerusalem (Los Angeles). THE PITS

Sir, - The Jerusalem Post rock music critic David Brinn is certainly entitled to his opinion. However, he owes his readers a bit more of an overview in his reactions to Neil Young's new album Broken Arrow (July 30). After the unanimously-praised Ragged Glory, Young has

released albums remarkable for their extreme mediocrity. Once a great musician and writer, his new album marks the lowest point achievable its tepid-to-pathetic performance. To use the terms "recommended

as one of his greatest records"; "scorching band efforts"; "shows no signs of retreating from his path" (of passionate music that's highlighted his career) - these terms are very misleading when one experience such resounding confirmation that the artist has lost his talent and

It is very much an insult to his fans to release an album so terrible and so weak, and his fans have the right to be forewarned. DAVID ROTENBERG

in her opinions.

المكذا عن ألاصل

H. BAR-TOV

The meaning of life on Mars

Many theologians would not be surprised by the discovery of intelligent life on other planets, but they believe it would alter humanity's views about God, writes Bill Broadway

LTHOUGH NASA scientists used such words as "stunning" and "unbelievable" to describe their discovery of possible life on Mars, theologians said there is nothing to get excited

Proof of life on other planets, whether microscopic and dumb or human-size and intelligent, would only confirm the expansive nature of God as taught in every major religion. The people who might have to make adjustments, they said, are those who believe humans are God's only intelligent

The secular commotion began when NASA's two-year study of a Martian meteorite found in 1984 in Antarctica uncovered evidence that microfossils in the potato-size rock probably came from life on Mars 3.6 billion years ago. Theologians echo skeptics who say the findings are inconclusive. They agreed life on other planets is possible, perhaps even likely, and that it is time to address the question of how discovery of life on another planet might affect individual faith and communal reli-

The answer most often given? Theologically, no problem. "What this challenges, interestingly enough, is not classical Christian and Jewish theism, which has always known that everything that is, is God's creation," said Stanley Hauerwas, professor of theological ethics at Duke University Divinity School. "It challenges the high humanism that has been characteristic of our lives since the 17th century, namely that the human species is what it's all about, that everything exists to serve us."

The Rev. James A. Wiseman, chairman of the department of theology at Catholic University, said some people's faith might be "shaken" by discovery of extraterrestrial life if they believe "God created life on Earth and Earth alone." Changing this "geocentric and ethnocentric mind-set" will take immense amounts of discussion and reading, he said, tantamount to Copernicus persuading the world that the Earth revolved around the sun, not the other way around. "Personally, I've always believed we will find life on other wiseman said

Christian fundamentalists - who embrace a literal interpretation of the Bible - might have trouble with the notion of life on other planets, said Nancey Murphy. associate professor of Christian philosophy at Fuller Theological Seminary, an evangelical school in Pasadena, California. Genesis doesn't say that God created bacteria on Mars," said Murphy.

But James Leo Garrett, a professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, a bastion of Southern Baptist conservatism, said that while the Bible does not mention life on other planets, "we need to be cautious saying that life on other planets is precluded, because

(the Bible) also says that God is the creator of all."

Christian who believes in evolution, called the Mars rock significant because it suggests "there may be intelligent life forms in the

If there are other higher life forms, the question then becomes how God relates to those beings and whether, like humans, they have fallen from grace and thus need salvation.

"Even if they look different from ourselves, He will have a relationship with them as well,"



Microscopic Martians: Some theologians say that God could have created them, too.

Murphy said, adding that most likely, that would mean revealing

recognize.

Himself in a way they would

"Presumably it's the same God but incarnating in a variety of different life forms." Garrett disagreed. "We do not need other incarnations, but

the ability to relate the Christian message to other civilizations," he

On the other hand, alien creatures could be so unlike humans that the concept of incarnation would not apply, said Walter A. Elwell, a Bible professor at Wheaton College in Illinois. They might require "an entirely different plan of salvation that hasn't even occurred to us and it's also possible they have not sinned against God," Elwell said. Perhaps they "passed the Edenic test that we

If we do encounter other intelligent life forms, he said, "I would hope that they are not fallen beings like we are. If they are more advanced and are equally sinful, we're in for a lot of trouble." Elwell has little doubt that alien civilizations could exist, and he can imagine God conceiving of different worlds. He pointed to "levels" of beings in the Bible - angels, cherubim, seraphim and humans so why not extraterrestrials?

Burton Visotzky, a professor at Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, pointed to "all kinds of creatures, spirits, demons and angels" in ancient and medieval times as suggestive of other forms of being. The rabbinical tradition has accepted the possibility of other worlds since the 4th and 5th centuries. The Genesis phrase Behold, it is good" led to speculation that God created and destroyed many universes before coming to this one and saying,

'Yes, this is it." Eastern religions, such as Buddhism and Hinduism, are so "mutually inclusive" in their interpretation of truth, that discovery of extraterrestrial life "wouldn't be in any way compromised or threatened, but expanded," said Jasper a reure University professor.

"The Islamic tradition respects scientific discovery and is ready to incorporate new findings into its worldview," said Fathi Osman, retired professor of Islamic studies at the University of Southern California. The Koran gives no details of the creation and thus is open to changing cosmological views, he said. Osman said it allows, in Surah 42:29, for a meeting of different beings: "And among His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth. And the living creatures that He has scattered through them. And He has power to gather them together

(Washington Post)

Holocaust Revisionism debate rages on

MARILYN HENRY

BATTLE over Holocaustera history and memory challenges both the credibility of a prominent Jewish historian and Warsaw's commitment to contend with Polish acts of anti-Semitism during World War II. The combustible conflict over the events of October 20, 1944, is being waged in the opinion pages of The New York Times and Gazeta Wyborcza, Poland's largest

newspaper. Yaffa Sonenson Eliach, a professor of history and literature at Brooklyn College, has built a reputation as a Holocaust historian. She is the author of the forthcoming book There Once Was a World: A Nine-Century Chronicle of the Shtetl of Eishyshok. It was in that shtetl - known in Polish as Ejszyszki - that her mother and infant brother were killed by Polish nationals some 52 years ago. Eliach wrote in an opinion piece in the Times that fringe Polish-American groups were trying to deny the truth about those deaths. She also suggested that the Polish government's investigation of the incident aimed to "impugn" her credibility. The Polish government replied that its intent was not to discredit Eliach. In a letter to the Times, Andrzej Jaroszynski, deputy chief of mission at the Polish Embassy in Washington, also said, "It was never the intention of the Polish authorities to deny the Holocaust, but to investigate the crime and to bring perpetrators to justice if they are still

According to Eliach's account, her mother and brother were killed in a raid on two houses in Eishyshok several months after the Nazis were driven from the town. Among the 150 Poles who participated in the raid were 80 members of the nationalist Polish Home Army. "The commander gave orders to murder all the Jews first those in the Sonenson house 'since the people there are armed,' then those in the Kabacznik house. He concluded his orders with a slogan popular in the Polish Home Army: 'Poland Without Jews,' Eliach wrote in the Times.

No Polish official denies the shootings, and Jaroszynski carefully avoided any disrespectful comments about Eliach, the creator of a prominent photo exhibit on the shtetl, the "Tower of Life." the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. However, Jaroszynski and Gazeta Wyborcza raised questions about how complete Eliach's account was. and the Warsaw newspaper said there was evidence that in Ejszyszki, the target may not have been Jews, but a Russian officer 'quartered" in the Sonenson home. Eliach may not be aware, Jaroszynski wrote, that "newly opened KGB secret archives throw a different light on her family's

The Warsaw paper quoted Jaroslaw Wolkonowski, an historian from Vilnius, as saying that a document from the KGB archives states that "during the disarmament of a Red Army captain and sergeant, Mrs. Sonenson and her infant were killed. In my opinion, Mrs. Sonenson and the child were accidental victims of the shooting,

which was tied to the capture of the captain." Eliach was aware of the Russians, she told the Post. adding that they had been invited to the shrell by her family, who feared a raid by the Home Army.
While KGB files mention the Russians, she said, "There is no doubt that the pogrom was intentionally planned to murder the Jews.

"She touched a nerve by bringing the Home Army into this," said one American source who refused to be identified. "This is part of the ongoing struggle to get the history of the Holocaust straight." After cautioning that he was not speaking about Eliach, the source predicted that, with the Holocaust-era archives opening in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. many historical accounts are likely to require fine-tuning or revisions that are bound to upset people. Some observers feared this argument would further trouble Jewish-Polish relations. which have been warming under Poland's president, Aleksander Kwasniewski, whose government apologized for the 1946 Kielce

But relations also have been set back by contentious plans for construction near Auschwitz and by delays regarding the restitution of Jewish property. In Warsaw, Adam Michnik, the editor-in-chief of Gazeta Wyborcza, chastised Eliach, saying her writing "spreads contempt for all who fought for a free, democratic and just Poland." In his rousing defense, Michnik said the Home Army was battling both Hitler and Stalin. While there were individual anti-semites and criminals in the Home Army, "the extension of the crimes of individuals to the whole heroic and tragic underground freedom-fighter army is a terribly distasteful measure," said Michnik, once a prominent Jewish dissident.

"Each nation has black pages in its history. How could one accuse its own president that he was a stooge of the Jews, and murder him? Poles did that," Michrik wrote, referring to the 1919 murder of Gabriel Narutowicz. Likewise, how could another nation accuse its president of being a transf and murder him? Jews did that, o he said, referring to the November assassination of Prime

Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The Polish government last year opened an investigation of the Eishyshok incident and sought testimony from Eliach after her story appeared in US News and World necessary to establish the truth, and the guilt or innocence of the accused. This cannot be done without the cooperation of Professor Eliach, the main witness, Jaroszynski said in his letter to the Times. "We hope that she will tes-

tify." Eliach, who was saved by a Pole, said the Poles are willing to accept her testimony about Righteous. Gentiles, but they are unwilling to .. accept her evidence that the Home Army "wanted a Poland without." Jews and without communists," She has declined to speak with the Polish investigators. Instead, she told The Jerusalem Post, "They will have to wait for the publication of my book."

13-24.8.96

It's life, Jim, but not as we know it!

RUN! Run for your lives! They're coming from outer space coming to get you! Ancient geological for-mations on Mars have disgorged ... microscopic

organic compounds?
H.G. Wells might have been disappointed, Orson Welles disgusted. Fans of 1950s sci-fi could probably demand refunds. Because, it seems, there are no little green men on Mars, no panicked citizens of Earth, no flying saucers firing death rays. Instead, scientists are debating whether a hunk of Martian meteorite called Allan Hills 84001 carried a proto-E.T. 23 million kilometers from

Even so, the tiny bit of

matter has excited sci-fi enthusiasts. "For us to believe we're the only possible intelligence in the world is extremely egotistical. It's аrrogant. What we're interested in, what we watch and what we read reflects that," says Robert Wise, who in 1951 directed The Day the Earth Stood Still, one of the most enduring movies about extraterrestrials.

"If this discovery is true," Wise says, "I think it'll change the way we look at the nature of the uni-

Mars, Earth's planetary next-door neighbor, has long been the receptacle of humanity's fears, hopes "It's close. It looks big in the sky. It's full and red

and rich. It s large enough to stare at and imagir says Michael Swanwick, a science fiction novelist and author of the 1985 story The Gods of Mars. "Mars," he says, "is where we put our dreams." Those dreams have wound through some night-

marish landscapes since 1894, when American astronomer Percival Lowell concluded, wrongly, that streaks on Mars were fashioned by a "higher intelligence" to carry water.

"The idea of being alone in the universe is kind of a scary one. Human beings have always wanted there to be something more. Mars makes it accessays Andy French, manager of Pandemonium Books and Games, a sci-fi store in Cambridge, Massachusens. Wells' 1897 novel The War of the Worlds, about a Martian invasion, became a sci-fi prototype, immortalized in 1938 when Orson Welles' Mercury Theater presented it on radio as a fake news broadcast that generated panic across the country.

With the 1950s and '60s came a boom in literary

and cinematic science fiction, with Ray Bradbury's The Martian Chronicles (1951) and Robert Heinlein's Stranger in a Strange Land (1961). Movies, pulp magazines and comics loved extraterrestrials, and many of the grisliest came from Mars.

MEIR ROUNDIGG.

However, as fact supplanted fancy, and visions moved beyond Mars to Jupiter, Saturn, Alpha Centauri and beyond, the cliche turned - from menacing Martian to humorous one. The drooling rat-spiders of The Angry Red Planet (1959) yielded to Santa Claus Conquers the Martians (1964). We saw Bugs Bunny battle tiny, tenacious Marvin Martian across Dali-like spacescapes. And Uncle Martin in the 1960s TV show My Favorite Martian from the planet next door.

Naturally, the mystique ebbs in the face of facts from high-powered telescopes and probes. And, though Mars remains a favorite topic, visionaries now often favor more distant frontiers where science fiction remains fiction.

"It used to be that you didn't have to go as far away to be in a land of mystery," says Tim Brooks, senior vice president of research at USA Network's Sci-fi Channel. "Now you have to go farther."

Swanwick, who spent the weekend at a science fiction convention in the Pittsburgh suburb of Mars, Pennsylvania, where the high school sports teams are called the Mars Planets, expects the prospect of Martian life - however low-level - to expand the human imagination.

"It would say that life can evolve easily and that the universe is swarming with it - that the galaxies are green," he says. "And that will lead us to many more dreams."

Man-made 'soil' may turn hill erosion into crop explosion

OlL erosion and its irreplace-able loss is a problem that ranks among the really great problems facing us in the management of natural resources on all continents. But there are few places where this problem is so critical as it is on the Indian subcontinent. Still largely an agrarian people with burgeoning, even exploding population figures. India needs all the arable soil it can get yet vast areas are uncultivated because the soil has eroded to the point where the land has become useless for agriculture.

In the past few years India's eroded hillsides have, in many cases, been reforested due to a recent innovation that recycles three notoriously hard-to-disposeof items in order to create new soil for growing trees and other crops. By mixing sewage sludge, fly ash (the residue remaining after coal is burned) and composted weeds agronomists have managed to produce a highly fertile soil-like mixture that, when plowed into eroded soils produces growth which they report is many times better than what is achieved by fertilizing the same soil with chemical fertiliz-

The technique, first tried on a small scale in Canada is now being applied to vast hillside areas in India where the soil has, over the years, become so croded that it is almost useless.

The project managers say that in some areas new forestation grew several times as fast as growth produced by conventional techniques. The sewage sludge and the composted weeds provide large EARTHLY CONCERNS D'VORA BEN SHAUL

amounts of nitrates while the fly of these animals is a priceless ash is rich in minerals such as resource for fertilizer and for fuel. zine, cadmium, cobalt and magne-Already some remarkable success sium. By combining them in prophas been reported in growing sugar cane in soil that was previer proportions they make up a matrix that provides everything ously too poor to support any crop the plants need. This year marked the first crops

But correct proportions is the critical factor and the heavy metals can, if fly ash is added too liberally, build up in the stems and prevent the plants from absorbing enough water and the other nutrients. For this reason the new material is only being used, at present, on crops that are used for fibers. fuel and for building materials. It has been especially successful

for growing trees such as acacia and gum and for bamboo and cot-

But even these crops are a boon for India where wood is the principal fuel for many millions and where there is a dearth of even the simplest lumber for building and furniture construction. Indeed, it is the demand for fuel wood that has been the chief contributing factor to the disappearance of the trees and the resultant erosion of the

But the researchers working on the project feel that very soon their experiments will bring them to a place where there will be no hindrance to applying the new material to forage crops, another item in short supply in a country where livestock are still the principal working animals and mode of transport and where even the dung strate. The researchers report yields comparable to those in orchards and vineyards on good quality soil.

In addition to its manifest usefulness as a soil additive this technique also does some very basic recycling.

Sewage sludge and fly ash are two products that until now have seemed both useless and expensive to dispose of while bulky weeds have taxed the disposal facilities of many areas.



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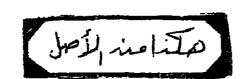
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Monday, August 19, 1996

BUSINESS BRIEFS

The Finance and Agriculture Ministries have reached a partial

agreement over the proposed increases in water prices for farmers. After protracted negotiations, they agreed to a 9.7 percent rise in the price of fresh water, or 6 agorot per cubic meter. The Treasury's

The ministries have agreed there should be no increase in the cost

of treated sewage water, at least for the time being. However, a joint

committee will examine pricing policy in this area. David Harris

Banks charge construction companies exceptional interest in the

Sagi reported yesterday that 18 of the 20 construction companies'

accounts it examined were charged exceptional interest. In many

cases, the interest rates amounted to 20%-30% of the building pro-

Sagi general manager Amnon Shurtz said the banks are to blame

Council demands compensation for fund investors: The Israel

Consumer Council is demanding that Bank Hapoalim compensate

provident-fund investors for damages incurred as a result of the

Gmulot deputy managing director Eylon Tsubari was indicted in

connection with stock manipulations and illegal use of provident-

In a letter to Amiram Sivan, managing director of Bank Hapoalim,

the council has demanded the bank hand over the report on the dam-

ages caused to investors as a result of Tsubari's manipulations. A

Bank Hapoalim spokesperson said the bank stands behind its

announcement it will compensate provident fund investors for dam-

ages incurred as a result of the episode, should there prove to be any.

Disposable contacts contract awarded Johnson & Johnson has

awarded the franchise to import and market its disposable Acuvue

contact lenses to Iriscon Import and Marketing. The company said

there is a clear trend of shifting from conventional to disposable

framework of financing closed projects, according to Sagi Interest,

original proposal was for an average price hike of 13.3%.

a company engaged in calculating bank interest rates.

Tsubari scandal which began in 1994.

fund investors' money.

Treasury to raise up to \$1b. guarantees

DAVID HARRIS

THE Finance Ministry is to raise \$750 million to \$1 billion of the US loan guarantees in the coming

Senior Treasury officials, led by Director-General David Brodet are traveling to New York this week to administer the loan raising, the exact amount being determined just before the issue date, subject to the interest rate and conditions on the market.

Israel has already raised \$5.6b. of the \$10b. maximum over a fiveyear period, which is scheduled to end in 1998, but with the option to extend for a further year.

The loan guarantees were initially approved by Congress to finance the sharp rise in immigrant

"We are still in a situation where the Israeli economy and society are in the midst of the wave of 750,000 immigrants," Brodet told reporters yesterday.

With more than half of the capital already collected and less than half the program left to run, the Finance Ministry says it is also looking for new sources of capital. In particular, this means the independent raising of money on bond markets.

In December, Israel made its first entry into this area, accruing \$250m. via the Yankee-bonds. The Treasury also announced last week its intention to raise \$750m. on the Eurobonds market over the next three years, including \$200m. to \$250m, before the end of the

The proposed financial reforms, growing economic independence, the peace process, and successful absorption of immigrants will give Israel a high rating, said Brodet. "At the end of the day, this will determine the state's ability to raise capital abroad."

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Treasury surprised, perplexed by complications in Hapoalim sale

THE Finance Ministry was unpre-pared for Claridge-Arison's decision to withdraw its bid for a controlling share in Bank Hapoalim last week and is "clearly unhappy in its wake," senior Treasury sources yesterday conceded.

Uzi Steinberg, chairman of MI Holdings, the state agency in charge of selling the banks, admitted that the tender, now left with only one bidder, may ultimately be canceled.

'We already had an agreement of principles and were convinced that everything would work out and that there is no point in exploring other alternatives," he

The Treasury has begun to explore other privatization venues. including spin-offs, local and

GALIT LIPKIS BECK and DAVID HARRIS

overseas public share-offerings new investment opportunities here and the previous government's scheme to sell stock options to the public.

Meanwhile, Claridge Vice President Dany Biron yesterday denied rumors in the business sec-

According to the rumors, the consortium had informed the Treasury of its interest in purchasing Bank Hapoalim's share in Koor, subject to the execution of a spin-off of Hapoalim's 22.7%stake in Koor.

"The only thing we have asked the Treasury is to give us back our \$20 million deposit, plus interest," said Biron, who added that the group has just begun to look at bank, with the aim being to

but has not yet examined any investments.

Ted Arison's local representatives was not available for comment. The group's other members include Goldman Sachs, the Soros Group and the Renaissance Fund.

As part of the newly revised Banking Law, which compels banks to reduce their holdings in nonfinancial assets to a maximum of 25%, Bank Hapoalim also must dispose of either its Clal or Koor holdings by the end of 1996. In the past, the Claridge-Arison con-

sortium mentioned Bank Hapoalim's non-financial assets as a major factor in its designs on the improve those holdings' performance and then sell them.

Following the Claridge-Arison retreat from the tender, the competing bid - headed by businessman Eliezer Fishman and also including investment house Bear Steams and US insurance group Reliance - has remained as the sole-contender for a controlling share in Israel's largest bank.

The Bank of Israel is currently considering the group's eli ribility

for the bid.

for many construction companies financing hardship. He said one of the projects examined revealed that the bank owed the construction company NIS 3m. because of excessively high interest rate charges.

According to Steint :, the Bank of Israel is expected to make a a preliminary recommendation within a few days. A spokesperson for the Bank of Israel said the decision pends on the Fishman consortium's response to its

Delek profits at NIS 25 million in 2nd quarter

THE Delek Israel Fuel Corporation recorded net profits of NIS 25.3 million in the second quarter, down NIS 0.8m. compared with the same period last year, the company reported yesterday. Revenue from sales totalled NIS 892m., up NIS 92m. on the first six months in 1995, an 11.5 percent increase.

Sales of gas products fell some 43% percent from 610,000 tons to 346,000. This was offset by increased sales in Delek Motors, the importer and distributor of Mazda.

Over the first six months profits reached NIS 53.4m., compared to NIS 52.7m. recorded in

has been no significant change in the firm's financial status between January and June.

the corresponding period last year.
The company's half-yearly report says there

Company directors have agreed to the distribution of an interim dividend of NIS 8.67m.,

Oman opens

trade office

in TA

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

OMAN took another step toward

developing trade relations with

Israel yesterday when it inaugu-

rated its a trade office in Tel Aviv

three months after Israel opened a

Manufacturers Association presi-

dent Dan Propper announced that

in October, a delegation of Omani

businessman and government offi-cials will visit Tel Aviv for a spe-

cial seminar on promoting bina-

tional trade between the countries.

Israeli and Omani participants the

chance to learn about one anoth-

er's economies and provide an opportunity for people to discuss

Oman, which has been one of

the most forthright Arab countries

in speaking out for trade with Israel, was the seventh Arab

nation to establish a diplomatic

Omani Foreign Minister Yousef bin Alawi has publicly said that

the countries should focus on developing business relations,

while diplomacy can wait until all

Despite the lack of formal

treaties, the business ties seem to

be spurring a stronger diplomatic relationship. An Israeli business

delegation recently flew to Oman.

expected to show their goods dur-

ing an exhibition in Oman, and a

delegation of businessmen is

expected to visit under the auspices

Nathan Sharansky, Propper said.

e-mail address: ___

Industry and Trade Minister

In December, 85 Israeli firms are

formal treaties are negotiated.

The seminar will offer the

the

trade office in Muscat.

Following

joint ventures.

presence here.

DAVID HARRIS and JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

the equivalent of 90% of paid up capital.

Sefen, a subsidiary of Koor Industries engaged in the manufacture of formica panels, reported a second quarter net profit of NIS 1m., compared to NIS 947,000 in the second quarter of 1995.

Net profits in the first six months of the year more than doubled to NIS 2.4m. from NIS 1.13m.

Adanim Israel Mortgage Bank reported a rise in second-quarter net profits to NIS 3.54m. from NIS 3.39m. in the same period last year. In the first six months of the year, net profits rose to NIS1.75m. from

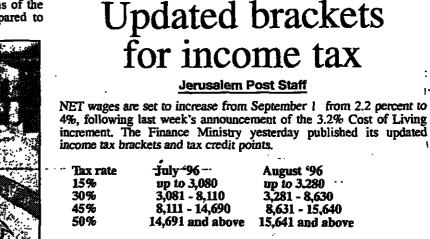
The Jerusalem Bank completed the first six months of the year with an increase in net profit to NIS 5.66m. from NIS 4.25m. in the first half of last year.

Net return on equity on an annual basis increased to 6.5% from 6.2% in the corresponding period last year.

Elco Holdings, Elco Industries' parent company, reported a second quarter net profit of NIS 26m., compared to NIS 32.2m. in the same period last year. The drop in earnings was mainly due to losses at Shekem, a subsidiary company.

Azorim Properties announced a rise in second-quarter net profit to NIS 9.9m. from NIS 2.11m. in the previous year.

Net profits in the first six months of the year swelled to NIS 11.19m. compared to



Tax credit point

Tax thresholds: Single 2,115

The adjustment will result in a net monthly salary increase of between NIS 80 and NIS 289. The average wage will now be NIS 4,887 a month. The cost of living increase was deemed sufficiently high to warrant the alterations, which were agreed between the Treasury and Histadrut. The inflation rate is now running at an annual 13%. The July Cost of Living index was 0.3%, considerably less than in previous months.

A bank employee shows passersby how to identify counterfeit money yesterday outside her bank in Beijing. In 1995, Chinese police confiscated \$12 million in counterfeit bills.

Nasser dies at 68

JACK Nasser, the American-Jewish real-estate and textile magnate who purchased the First International Bank in 1985, died on Friday at 68, after a serious illness, and was buried in Caesarea.

A native of Syria, Nasser had

GREER FAY CASHMAN

first come to Israel with members of his family before the establishment of the State.

Following his military service, be and his brothers Albert and Maurice left Israel in the early 1950s and established a tri-continental business empire stretching from the Philippines to Brazil. They began investing in Israel in

the early 1970s. Jacques Nasser made headline news in 1985 when he tried to negotiate a deal to save the bankrupt Kiryat Ata-based Ata textile company, but the sale fell through due to a dispute over government

assistance. Ata subsequently

closed down. The next year, he paid \$21 million to the bankrupt Danot Investment Company for a con-trolling stake in FIBI, the holding company for the



For years he was believed to be a straw man for banker Edmond Safra, founder and owner of the York-based Republic New National Bank, from which Nasser had received a sizable loan towards the acquisition of First International.

In 1990, he sold his FIBI shares to Edmond's brothers Joseph and Maurice, whose banking headquarters are in Brazil.

Nasser, who believed himself to have been cheated out of the ownership of the bank, filed suit against the Safras several months ago, but died before the case was heard.

ISTAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (29.7.96) Currency (deposit for:)
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)
Pound sterling (\$100,000)
German mark (DM 200,000)
3 MONTHS
4,750
3 MONTHS
1,750 5.375 4.125 2.250 las franc (SF 200,000) (Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (16.8.96)

	CHECK	s and				
	TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.	
Currency basket	Buy	Selî	Buy	Sell	Rates	
U.S. dollar	3.5123	3.5690			3.5437	
	3.1228	3.1732	3.06	3.22	3.1510	
German mark	2.0969	2.1308	2.06	2.17		
Pound sterling	4.8396	4.9177	4.75	4.99	2.1158 4.8818	
French franc	0.6138	0.6238	0.80	0.64		
Japanese yen (100)	2.8999	2.9487	2.85	2,99	0.6190	
Dutch florin	1.8690	1.8992	1.83	1.83	2.9250	
Swiss franc	2.5861	2.6279	2.54	2.67	1.8852	
Swedish krona	0.4704	0.4780	0.46		2.6082	
Norweglan krone	0.4861	0.4940	0.47	0.49	0.4746	
Denish krone	0.5423	0.5511	0.53	0.51	0.4902	
Finnish mark	0.6987	0.7100	0.68	0.58	0.5472	
Canadian dollar	2,2729	2.3096	2.23	0.72	0.7048	
Australian dollar	2,4447	2.4842	2.40	235	2.2934	
S. African rand	0.6863	0.6974		252	24668	
Beiglan franc (10)	1.0179	1.0344	0.62	0.70	0.6925	
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9800	3.0281	1.00	1.05	1.0270	
12241211 Nra (1,000)	2.0572	2.0904	2.92 2.02	. 3.08	3.0074	
Jorganian dinar	4.3400	4.6400	4.34	2.12	2.0761	
Egyptian pound	0.8900	0.9700	0.89	4.64	4.4902	
ECU	3.9527	4.0165	U.03	0.97	1.0004	
irish punt	5.0147	5.0956			3.9852	
Spanish peseta (100)	2,4798		4.92	5.17	5.0570	
•		2.5198	2.43	2.56	2.5028	
*These rates v	RIV accord	ing to han				

cording to bank. *Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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INTERPHARM LABORATORIES LTD.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of InterPharm Laboratories Limited will be held
at the corporate offices of Ares Services S.A. at 15 bis. Chemin des Mines, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland on Monday, September 2, 1996, at 09:30 a.m. (local time) for the following purposes:

Receiving the Director's report for the year 1995. Approving the year-end 1995 financial statements.

Electing a Board of Directors of eight members to serve until the next Annual General Meeting of Shareholders

Electing a Board of Directors of eight members to serve until the next Armuel General weeting of Shareholders and until their respective successors are duly cleared and shall qualify.

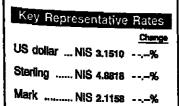
Appointing Kesselman & Kesselman as the independent public accountants of the Company for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1996 and empowering the Board of Directors to determine the basis of their compensation.

Acting upon other matters that may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof. Shareholders who were registered in the register of the Company at the end of the business day of August 7, 1996 are

Shareholders who were registered in the register of the Company at the end of the business day of August 7, 1990 are entitled to receive an invitation to the said meeting, participate and vote in it. Shareholders holding shares through banks or similar institutions must secure proxies from such institution indicating their share ownership as of August 7, 1996. Invitations to the meeting, background materials and proxy forms shall be sent in the meil to the Shareholders listed in the register of the Company. Shareholders not appearing in the register of the Company may request such materials to the register of the Company, createriouses not expressing in the register of the Company may request section increases as be mailed to them by mailing or by fax to fax no. 03-5107528 a written request with an appropriate mailing request to Keinhendler & Halevy Law Offices, 30 Kalisher str., Tel Aviv 65257, accompanied by a proof of ownership and number

لكذا من الاصل

berman AFG official killed hijackers



Palladium hits lowest point since January '94 COMMODITIES ROUNDUP

PALLADIUM hit its lowest point since January 1994 on Friday, and pulled the rest of the precious metals complex down with it.

An analyst said that paliadium tends to be a bellwether for platinum. They have a lot of the same end uses and often come from the same mines. Supply and demand is similar aside from the jewelry demand of platinum.

Gold and silver traded in a narrow range with featureless activity, overshadowed by palladium, traders said. December gold closed 30 cents lower at \$391.40. September silver closed 1 cent lower at \$5.077. October platinum closed \$2.80 lower at \$401.50. September palladium closed \$2.75 lower at \$125.05.

High grade copper futures closed lower on Friday after a spate of bearish news hit the market. The morning copper market was greeted with the news that London Metal Exchange (LME) warehouse stocks increased 9,100 metric tons to 261,000 metric tons. This is the highest level since

COMEX September high grade copper futures closed down 210 basis points at \$0.9045.

As some forecasters call for more rain to come into the Corn Belt this week, soybean futures fell, pressured by late, light fund selling and a lack of buying into the closing bell, in a quiet trade on Friday. The November soybean futures contract closed down 7-1/4 cents at \$7.76-3/4 per bushel.

Grain futures ended lower on Friday, with com settling at its lows, while wheat closed in midrange after a very quiet session that mostly saw liquidation ahead of the weekend. Com traded weaker, pressured by the lack of friendly news, and conflicting weather forecasts for the Com Belt from private meteorologists. Part of the lower trade spawned from pre-weekend liquidation as sources said traders were unsure of which forecast to believe. Also, they noted, traders may not have been interested in carrying a posi-

Wheat traded lower all day Friday, opening weaker and extending losses to make new weekly lows in most contracts, amid quiet, choppy trade. With a lack of fresh news and a general weaker tone, the trade stayed on the downside. September corn closed down 8 at \$3.67-1/2 while December com ended 6-1/4 lower

September wheat closed at \$4.45-1/2, down 2-3/4 and December wheat finished the day down 5 at \$4.57.

Cotton futures ended lower on the day, with December dropping to settle just off session lows. Sources said continued profit-taking after last week's early sharp advances kept the market under pressure.

The monthly cotton consumption report, due out this Thursday, is expected to be friendly to cotton prices. The December futures contract ended down 91 points at 73.04 cents.

October world sugar futures settled slightly lower on the day on early commercial trade selling and speculator liquidation, with some scale-down buying, sources said. The October contract settled 2 points lower at 11.64 cents. No fresh news was cited by

September coffee futures settled slightly lower on the day amid selling and buying by speculators, a floor trader said. The September coffee futures contract settled 30

points lower at \$1.2085. Courtesy of Michael Zwebner, CommStock Trading Ltd.

German AEG official killed by hijackers

JOHANNESBURG (Reuter) - A 48-year-old German businessman who had wanted to emigrate from South Africa with his young family was shot and killed by four armed hijackers this week, police said over the weekend.

Erich Ellmer, financial director of the AEG electronics group, was shot in the back and head by the car hijackers as he arrived at his high-security Bryanston home on

Thursday evening.

A neighbor who heard the gunshots ran out of his house and fired at the hijackers, forcing them to flee without Ellmer's car, police said. There were no arrests.

China: US arrogant on Iran, Libya sanctions

BEUING (Reuter) - China said panies that make new investments extra-territoriality showed incipesterday that the United States of more than \$40 million in either sively the US hegemonical ideolowas arrogant and using the pretext of terrorism to dictate policy with its tough new law on foreign oil companies investing in Iran and

It said the US was "standing lonely and condemned worldwide" on the so-called D'Amato law, which allows Washington to impose sanctions on foreign com-

Iran or Libya.

"The United States was actually practicing interventionism to make itself a dictator of international political and economic affairs on the pretext of anti-terrorism," the Chinese news agency Xinhua said.

"Placing its own law above international laws and practicing

sively the US hegemonical ideology of overweening arrogance, and that those who submitted would prosper and those who resisted would perish," it said, quoting the

news weekly Outlook. The law, signed by US President Bill Clinton this month, seeks to penalize the two countries, which the US contends are chief states sponsoring terrorism.

The move has triggered a chorus of criticism from Washington's friends and foes alike, with Japan, the European Union, and Australia

all voicing objections.
French President Jacques Chirac has said Paris would retaliate for any sanctions against French com-

Xinhua said the move betrayed a lack of confidence in the US over the actions of its allies.

Left warns Italian government over telecom privatization

left government, already threatened with possible mass strikes over trade union pay claims later this year, faces more turbulence over plans to privatize state telecom firm Stet.

The hard-left Communist Refoundation, whose 35 deputies hold the balance of power in the lower house of parliament, warned. that any attempt to bypass them by cutting a deal with the opposition would provoke a crisis.

Communist Refoundation is resolutely opposed to the privatization of Stet and other state firms, and has said that there is no room for compromise.

Party president Armando Cossutta yesterday told the leftist daily L'Unita that his party is totally opposed to planned privatizations of the telecom and energy sectors.

We consider these sectors to be decisive and the locomotives for the economy of a modern and advanced country. Just as the steel industry was decisive in the past," he said.

The hard left's tough stance has led to speculation that Prime Minister Romano Prodi's government might look to the center-right Freedom Alliance opposition for help.

Gerardo Bianco, leader of the centrist Popular Party, a member of the center-left coalition, was quoted in newspapers as asking the center-right opposition to support privatization legislation for the good of the country.

Banks

Financial

A bill setting up a regulatory body for the telecommunications sector is part of legislation still to be passed before the Stet sale can go ahead. The government wants the privatization completed by

next spring. "Italy cannot be allowed to fail because of the whims of Refoundation, Communist Bianco said.

Far-right National Alliance deputy Maurizio Gasparri was quoted as saying that the Freedom Alliance might back the government on Stet legislation in exchange for a deal on privatization of state broadcaster RAL

His comments were however later contradicted by AN's economic expert Gaetano Rasi, while centerright CDU leader Rocco Buttiglione said his party would not back Prodi because the proposed privatization appeared "too cautious.

Diliberto, Oliviero Refoundation's parliamentary party leader in the lower house, insisted that any attempt to make a deal with the center-right would be fatal for a government that needs Refoundation's political

backing to survive. "Gasparri's words are surprising and hide a mortal intrigue for the government," he said. "AN promises its own votes in parliament to push the privatization through. But it's clear that this could only cause an immediate

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Oil Exploration

PARALLEL LIST

US courts may have last say on smoking curbs

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - -President Bill Clinton intends to act soon to announce new curbs on youth access to tobacco, but exactly when they take effect may be up to the courts, people familiar with

The tobacco industry filed a suit a year ago, when the rules were first proposed, challenging the Food and Drug Administration's legal authority to regulate tobacco. Tobacco Institute spokeswoman Brennan Dawson said the industry

was ready to go to court again if necessary once the final regulations are issued. "The industry shares the goals of

reducing youth smoking, but there remains the very basic legal issue of whether the FDA has jurisdiction over tobacco," Dawson said in a telephone interview. After reviewing hundreds of

thousands of comments, the FDA sent the White House its final proposals last week. The rules are thought to be little different from those President

Clinton proposed last year in an

effort to stop minors from starting smoking. Cigarette companies would have been barred from placing billboard advertising within 1,000 feet of

schools and playgrounds. It was also proposed to require age-verified and face-to-face sales and eliminate mail-order sales, vending machines, free samples, self-service displays and sales of

Clinton also urged that sales or giveaways of caps or gym bags with tobacco company logos be prohibited, as well as brand-name sponsorship of sporting or enterainment events.

Administration officials who requested anonymity said it did not appear that the FDA had made

significant changes. The White House has said the -rules would be issued before the November 5 presidential election. Others, close to the rule-making procedure, said they could be sued as soon as this week to go into effect in 90 or 120 days.

Then it would be the courts' turn, but a leading tobacco foe, Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), saw little chance the industry would succeed in trying

to delay the restrictions. FDA Commissioner David Kessler, a lawyer as well as a doctor, has found support in President

Clinton to regulate tobacco as a drug. Kessler, a pediatrician, has called smoking a children's disease because almost all smokers start in their teens. The FDA cites figures showing that 3,000 youths a day start smoking and 1,000 of them end up dying sooner because of it.

Assessing legal action, the

Tobacco Institute's Dawson said the core issue was whether the FDA had authority to regulate tobacco - the industry believes it does not.

Two-sided trading

Shares 32400 500

0.6 15200 -0.3 2605 1.9 3091 -0.5 54 -0.5 16051 12979 2.5 16580 -0.2 10580 -0.2 10580 -0.2 27606 2.2 363 1.5 1902 2.6 13383 1182 22000 -0.3 5866 4500 -1.0 5350 -3.0 1165

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-1.2

1.5 0.2 1.5 1.3 -0.5

-0.5 0.5

-1.1

Change 2.7 -0.2 2.0 -0.7

-0.2 -1.0 -0.5 -3.0 2.0 0.2 -0.2 1.5

-1,0 0,2 0,2 -1,0

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Teva leads shares upwards

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



SHARE indexes rose about 0.5 percentage point yesterday, led by Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., as investors focused on the possibility that the central bank will cut interest rates.

"Today was Teva's day," said Dror Kraus, who manages about \$15 million for the Koor Investment House in Tel Aviv.

The Two-Sided Index rose 0.57 percent to 176.78. The Maof Index added 0.44 to 187.14.

Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 55m. of shares traded, 17% less than the month's daily average of NIS 66m. and 28% less than last month's NIS

76m. Three issues rose for every

two that fell. Teva was the most active stock, rising 6.25% on NIS 4.5m. of shares traded.

The drug maker reported Thursday that second-quarter earnings before merger expenses fell 15%. Analysts said that in a conference call, the company was

upbeat about its prospects. Teva American depositary receipts traded in New York bounced off a three-month low 30 1/2 on Wednesday to finish the week at 32 7/8. Traders yesterday. made up the arbitrage gap that opened Thursday and Friday.

Airbus drops its legal dispute with Boeing

NEW DELHI (Reuter) - Aircraft maker Airbus Industrie said that for the time being it has shelved plans to take legal action against Boeing for remarks the European consortium says its US rival made in sales

negotiations with Air-India. Last month, Airbus said Boeing had claimed the cruise speed of the Airbus 340 was lower than that of Boeing's 777, and that it was preparing legal steps against Boeing. Airbus says the planes have comparable

Airbus and Boeing, along with US plane maker McDonnell Douglas Corp, are vying for an Air-India order which industry officials said

could involve up to 20 aircraft worth some \$2 billion. We consider that Boeing has made statements that come down to public denigration," an Airbus spokesman said in July, "Boeing made remarks which were extremely controversial, coming close to defama-

But in New Delhi on Friday, Airbus officials said they were no longer preparing legal action. "They [Boeing] have accepted what we have had to say," Airbus spokesman David Velupillai said. "So no further action

is expected for the time being." He did not elaborate.

Boeing officials said that in comparing the 777 and the A340, the US firm only quoted aviation journals. Boeing India president Dinesh Keskar said he could not comment on Airbus's decision.

Last week in the Indian capital, senior officials of Airbus, Boeing, and McDonnell Douglas made presentations to Air-India. The Indian carrier serves 40 major destinations on five continents and

is looking for long-distance, medium-capacity aircraft to boost a sag-Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's government is expected to choose

from among the three aircraft makers before the end of the year. Airbus executives recently estimated the market for new planes in the Indian subcontinent - India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka - at 400 planes worth \$30 billion in the next two decades. More than half will be for India.

Airbus Industrie is a consortium made up of French state-owned Societe Nationale Industrielle, British Aerospace Plc, Daimler-Benz Aerospace, a unit of Daimler-Benz AG, and Construcciones

Airbus said the four-engine A340 can fly without stopping for some 14,000 km., farther than the 777. That makes the A340 particularly attractive to business travelers, the European consortium says.

Political worries keep Thai baht under pressure

PHUKET, Thailand (Reuter) -The Bank of Thailand is unlikely to change its baht fixing policy this year following assurances by its governor, but currency dealers expect the baht to remain under pressure due to political uncer-

Foreign exchange dealers from four South East Asian countries said Thai central bank governor Remgchai Marakanond's remarks that he was happy with the baht's current value should help relieve some pressure on the Thai curren-

Remgchai also told over 100 dealers from South East Asia on Saturday his bank would not hesitate to enter spot and forward currency swap markets to defend the baht which has faced intermittent rumors of devaluation in the past two weeks.

But some dealers attending the seminar here said Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-archa's shaky coalition government would discourage them from taking baht positions next week.

"Banharn's performance has been one disappointment after another. He has consistently put partisan interests above national interests by handing out ministerial jobs to unqualified people based on coalition quotas," said a chief dealer at a Thai bank who asked not to be identified.

Banham has resisted growing calls for him to step down ahead of a no-confidence debate against him in parliament early next

During his 13-month period in office, Banham has struggled to hold his trimmed. six-party coalition together amid signs of wavering support from some partners.

The sudden pullout by the 23seat Palang Dharma Party early last week has placed his administration under renewed pressure. The chief dealer, echoing the

view of other foreign exchange traders, said Thailand needed a change of leader and warned the longer Banham stayed the more damage he was likely to inflict on

Opposition politicians said they would attack Banham whose gov-

dals, including an allegation 10 days ago that bidders for three new Thai bank licenses had been asked to pay billions of baht in kickback fees.

Banham has denied the allegation but his cabinet agreed last week to investigate the claim.

Central bank governor Remgchai gave on Saturday a strong warning to speculators that they could get their fingers burnt if they put further pressure on the

Remgchai said Thailand had no plans to abandon its practice of fixing the baht against a basket of His blunt warning came after

the central bank intervened in Singapore and Hong Kong swap markets for the first time early this month to ease pressure on the "While we don't want to be

tested, we are certainly prepared and equipped to do whatever is necessary to preserve the value of our currency. That is one of the basic missions of the Bank of Thailand," he said. Edmond Teo of WestDeutsche

Landesbank said few Singaporebased dealers seriously expected Thailand to devalue the baht, although some dealers may have exploited trading opportunities arising from devaluation rumors in late July and early August. Teo said Singapore dealers

would view any political change in Thailand as a short-term adjustment that would not alter their overall bullish long-term outlook. Ng Yang Chong of National Westminster Bank Plc said Thailand was among a number of Asian countries facing export and economic slowdowns.

Thai exports rose 5.7 percent year-on-year during the first half of 1996, slowing from a 26.9% rise a year earlier.

The governor insisted that Thailand's projected 7.8% gross domestic product growth this year should not be regarded as recessionary. However, the figure would be well below the average 8.5% expansion achieved in the past five years.

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هكنامن الأصل

Vialli narrowly misses Chelsea debut goal

LONDON (Reuter) - Former Juventus striker Gianluca Vialli narrowly missed marking his Chelsea debut with a goal in yesterday's Premier League 0-0 draw at Southampton.

The 32-year-old Italian recruit struck the woodwork as the cosmopolitan Chelsea side managed by former Dutch international Ruud Gullit were held by opponents who showed the virtues of English workmanship.

Vialli almost broke the deadlock in the 70th minute when he launched himself acrobatically at a left-wing cross from Andy Myers, producing an overhead shot that beat goalkeeper Dave Beasant but rebounded off his right-hand upright.

Gullit, showing few signs of

SUNDAY CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Birmingham (Edgbaston): Warwickshire beat Glamorgan by seven wickets. Glamorgan 128, Warwickshire 131-3 (N.Knight 73 not

Yorkshire Bristol: Gloucestershire by 133 runs. Vorkshire 262-7 innings closed (D.Byas 56, P.Hartley 52), Gloucestershire 129 (R.Stemp 4-25)

Derby: Nottinghamshire beat Derbyshire by eight wickets. Derbyshire 229-6 innings closed (K.Barnett 99), Nottinghamshire 232-2 (T.Robinson 90, P.Johnson 71 not out). Manchester (Old Trafford):

Manchester (Old Transra): Lancashire beat Hampshire by one run. Lancashire 223-8 innings closed (N.Fairbrother 55, M.Atherton 53), Hampshire 222-9 innings closed (R.Smith 77) Canterbury: Somerset beat Kent

by three wickets. Kent 206-9 innings closed (T.Ward 52, C.Hooper 50), Somerset 210-7 (S.Lee 62 not out, R.Harden 56).

London (Lord's): Worcestershire beat Middlesex by two runs. Worcestershire 173-7 innings closed (D.Leatherdale 50), Middlesex 171 (D.Leatherdale 5-31).

managerial pressure in his first game in charge, would have been satisfied with the promise shown and the way his side knitted together on their first competitive

Chelsea fielded just two Englishmen – midfielder Dennis Wise and Myers - among their collection of players from Italy, France, Romania, Wales, Ireland and Scotland.

The Southampton side, with former Glasgow Rangers and Liverpool manager Graeme Souness in charge for his first match, was energetic and harried Chelsea without upsetting the assurance of recently-signed former Strasbourg sweeper Frank Leboeuf.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS: PREMIER LEAGUE: Southampton DIVISION TWO: Shrewsbury 1,

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Emmitt Smith sprains knee

Dallas Cowboys All-Pro running back Emmitt Smith, who signed an eight-year, \$42.5 million contract last week, suffered a sprained left knee in Saturday's pre-season game against the Denver

Smith, who gained just 11 yards on seven carries in the game, was able to walk off the field but was taken to the locker room and was scheduled for an MRI exam yesterday.

Sampras, Ivanisevic advance to RCA final Top-seeded Pete Sampras and second seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia both breezed through Saturday's semifinals to set up last night's final of the \$1 m RCA Championships in Indiana. World No. 1 Sampras cruised to a 6-1, 6-4 victory over 13th-

seeded Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic. Ivanisevic played flawless tennis to trounce fifth-seeded and 15th-ranked Todd Martin 6-2, 6-4.

Davenport upsets Graf in Acura Classic

Lindsay Davenport surprised Steffi Graf 6-3, 6-3 in the Acura Classic semifinals in California on Saturday, handing Graf her first loss in the United States since November 1994.

Anke Huber, a 22-year-old tabbed as the German successor to Graf, held off No. 7 Karina Habsudova of Slovakia 7-6 (7-3), 6-3 in the other semifinal. The final was scheduled for last night. AP

Report: Barkley headed to Houston

PHOENIX (AP) - Charles Barkley will be traded from the Phoenix Suns to the Houston Rockets for four players, according to a published report yesterday.

The Arizona Republic, citing an unidentified source in Houston, reported yesterday that the fourfor-one transfer would likely be announced today if details can be worked out.

The story said Houston would sent point guard Sam Cassell forwards Robert Horry, Mark Bryant and Chucky Brown to Phoenix. All four players will-become free agents after this upcoming season.

Paralympics action continues

ISRAELI disabled athletes have vet to win a medal at the Olympic Games for the disabled in Atlanta, however they have advanced to upcoming medal rounds in some events.

The tennis team, which includes Eyal Sheratov and Gil Na'or, pulled off a surprising victory over the Swedish team. In bowls for the blind, Tammy

Carmeli soundly beat a Canadian competitor, 25-11. Yogev Kenzi qualified for the

200m finals after ranking third in the preliminaries with a time of 23.4 seconds. Swimmer Hanoch Bodin quali-

fied for the finals in the 200m medley after ranking sixth in the preliminary round with an exemplary time of 2 minutes, 32.6 sec-

After winning the first set in the volleyball competition, Israel lost to Slovakia 3-1.



the fans who were here today ... I've got 35,000 fans expecting me to give them their money's

Clemens, Bosox blank Angels

BOSTON (AP) - Roger Clemens pitched his first shutout since April 1994, allowing seven singles as the Boston Red Sox beat the California Angels, 6-0 on Saturday.

Clemens (6-11) pitched his 37th career shutout, one behind Cy Young for the most in Red Sox history. He struck out nine and walked three.

NATIONAL LEAGUE Braves 7, Pirates 1 Ryan Klesko and Jermaine Dye each

hit two-run homers and Mike Bielecki

pitched five scoreless innings for host Bielecki (4-2) allowed three hits, walked four and struck out five. Dean Hartgraves gave up a hit in two innings and Greg McMichael gave up an RBI grounder by Dave Clark in the Cleveland 6, Detroit 3 Seattle 10, New York 3 Oakland 3, Baltimore 1 Boston 6, California 0 Chicago 6, Milwaukee 2 Minnesota 11, Toronto 1 Kansas City 4, Texas 1

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division .601 .548 .508 .468 .460 Chicago Minnesol .569 .521 .484 .459 53 58 65 66

SATURDAY'S NL RESULTS: St. Louis 4, Florida 3 Chicago 12, Houston 3 Cincinnati 5, Colorado 3 (1st) Cincinnati 9, Colorado 5 (2nd) Atlanta 7, Pittsburgh 1 San Francisco 8, Philadelphia 4 New York 7, San Diego 3 Los Angeles 7, Montreal 6 MATIONAL LEAGUE

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Colorado	62	61						
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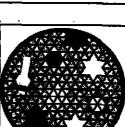
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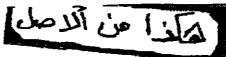
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ENTERTAINMENT

HELEN KAYE

THE Whiffs are back for the 11th time, which means that the 14 all-male young warblers of Yale's famed Whiffenpoof glee club will present their inimitable mix of barbershop, showtnes and jazz for fans tomorrow night at the Israel Museum Auditorium in Jerusalem at 8:30 p.m. Tomorrow they're performing on the Louis Promenade below the Haifa Dan Panorama Hotel at 9 p.m. for free. (English)

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** A LITTLE PRINCESS - Alfonso Cuaron directed this gorgeously heartfelt adaptation of the Frances Hodgson Burnett Victorian tearjerker about little Sara Crewe, whose father's reported death sends her tumbling from privilege to poverty at a fancy all-girls school. Written for the screen by Richard LaGravanese and Elizabeth Chandler, the script vitally mixes the book's porcelain-precious themes about girlhood and the imagination with a harsh view of the grim streets of early 20th-century New York, the trenches of World War I, and the bleaker sides of human nature. (To rid the story of its colonial overtones, the action has been Americanized and its time frame shifted to 1914.) The constant threat of hunger and cold just beyond the cozy charm of childhood gives the film its nower. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. General audiences)

*** STOLEN HEARTS - In their new romantic comedy, Sandra Bullock and Denis Leary nag, bicker, make up and make out, nag, bicker, make up and make out, and so forth. They're supposed to be a working-class Boston couple: he's a small-time crook and she's a cashier with middle-class aspirations (a house, kids, a trip to Europe). But with their matching rust-colored hair, overlapping, irritated line-delivery and big noses, they seem much more like brother and sister than passionate young lovers. While the movie is hardly a masterpiece, the testy. affectionate repartee between these two cut-ups is at least energetic and seemingly spontaneous - which is a great deal more than can be said for the blandly polite meetings between girl and boy that have been the dull norm in other recent Hollywood attempts to restart the genre. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested)

TELEVISION

DAVID ISAACSON

THE 1996/97 English soccer season is underway and tonight at 9:55 on Channel 5, local fans have the first opportunity to see two of the Premier League's big-name teams in action. The Liverpool vs. Arsenal tie should give an early indication of what lies ahead for the Reds and the Gunners. Can Liverpool return to the glory years of the '70s and '80s? Will Robbie Fowler prove to be the new Jimmy Greaves? Is Steve McManaman all he's cracked up to be? As for Arsenal, how will the north London club fare without a manager? Are Ian Wright's best days behind him? Will the new French imports get a game? It should be an exciting match with neither side giving too much away, so don't expect a glut of goals.

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NiS28.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NISS20.65 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM

TEL AVIV

Museums
TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Susan and Anton Roland-Rosenberg Collection - 24 masterpieces by modern arists. Fauvism - Wild Beasts. Josef Beuys - Drawings and Objects. Prints - new acquisitions. New Horizons: Sculpture. Face to Face. The Museum Collections. HELENA RUBIN-STEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Summer Exhibition for Children: Celebration of Colour - games and workshop. I Am You - Artists Against Volence: 20 posters. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. 10 - 3 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 6919155-8.

HAIFA WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dia: 04-374253.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

ERDZAZO

er (A. 2003-54

Rep:1:

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N/ 61

Land Ballington

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12.00

AND THE STATE OF T

- 1 Silent type has quiet vice
- 4 It's fun to glue part on
- aeroplane (8) 8 Went dead (8)
- 9 First to arrive-realise one
- had wrong time (8)
- 11 Punishment? Why? (4.3) 13 Prizzling, freak giant mice
- 15 Undo all locks and have an
- uninhibited time (3,4,4.4) 18 In wartime, one place
- where there is no smoke
- 21 Convey to one's house, free

- 22 Girl in a state (8)
- 24 You wouldn't get back to this seat in the pub (3,5) 25 Kept being shy (8)
- 26 Mouth forming Greek

letter (5)

DOWN

- 1 Fish's taken with beer? Nonsense! (10)
- 2 Group of characters presenting first-class risk
- 3 Airborne soldier picking up
- stink of fuel (8) 4 Hack semi-precious stone
- (4) 5 Look into crash in ski race
- 6 Put money into popular clothing... (6)

SOLUTIONS

7...there's money in

10 Lively Diana met problems

12 Fool has broken rule—put

14 Charming pantomime (10)

16 Understood leader is in

17 Girl painting is pressed to dress the salad (5,3)

19 A hybrid? Not this type of

23 A young girl up? Not up yet

20 I.clear out the pastry (6)

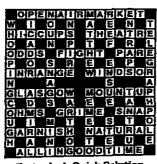
22 Daily makes tea (4)

him to other work (8)

difficulties (8)

clue (6)

clothing—Scots clothing



Yesterday's Quick Solution ACROSS: 1 Writers, 5 Reign, 8 Never, 9 Festoon, 10 Evident, 11 Loyal, 12 Feeble, 14 Precis, 17 Robin, 19 Balance, 22 Stature, 23 Chess, 24 Enter, 25 Theatre. DOWN: I Wince, 2 Invoice, 3 Eerie, 4 Safety, 5 Rustler, 6 Irony, 7 Nonplus, 12 Foresce, 13 Langue 15 Content, 16 Absent, 18 Boast, 20 Lucre, 21 Easue.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

I Itinerant repairer

(6) 4 Beautiful girl (5) 8 Search for water (5)

9 Packed cushion (7) 10 Restricted (7) 11 Builet (4)

12 Decline (3) 14 Unfasten (4) 15 Volcanic matter (4) 16 Differing from 18 Indian bread (3)

27 Devil (5)

28 Warmed (6)

21 Wide smule (4) 23 Further on (7) 25 Unite (7) 26 Enraged (5)

DOWN 1 Slightly drunk (6) 2 Reporter (7) 3 Public voting (8)

4 Strike (4) 5 Written defamation (5) 6 Hire (6)

7 Dwelling-place (5) 13 Primitive weapon 20mm (7)

17 Counting frame . 19 Inquisitive (5) 20 Rise (6)

22 Acknowledge (5) 24 Pottery oven (4)

TELEVISION

E CHANNEL 1

6:31 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

ELECTIONAL TV

8:00 Animals 8:30 Tom Cats 9:00 Gaya, Gal and Gili 9:15 Kalimaru 9:30 Huckleberry Finn 10:00 Little Women - cartoon 10:30 Vacation Studio 13:00 Animals 13:30 Tom Cats 14:00 Gaya, Gal and Gil 14:15 Kalimaru 14:30 Moomins 15:00 Land of Dreams 15:15 Gargantua

15:30 Zap on the Wave 15:33 Torn and Jerry 15:50 Zappers 16:00 Heartbreek High 16:45 Zap on the Wave 16:59 A New Evening 17:34 Zap on the Wave 17:50 Yaldudas 18:00 Zap on the Wave 18:15 News in

English
ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Spons Magazine 19:00 News in Arabic HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:31 Grace Under Fire 20:00 Mabet News 20:45 Summer with Dan Margalit - current-affairs live interview program 22:00 The Lazarus Man 22:55Distant Relatives 23:30 News 00:00 Verse of the Day

10:00 National Geographic nature films 11:00 Hanan and Natian (rpt) 11:30 Trick or Treat (rpt) 12:00 Tush-Tush 13:30 To Anatter of Time 13:30 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air (rpt) 14:00 Tick Tack 14:30 All Together Now 15:00 Super Duper 15:30 Make a Wish 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Rail Reshet 17:30 Haif the Tribe 18:00 Santa Barbara 19:00 Baywatch 20:00 News 20:30 Mr. Bean – British comedy seeise 21:30 Fr a Deal 21:40 Summer on the Beach 22:40 Zehu Zeh 23:45 Stags 00:00 News 00:05 Stags, continued 00:15 Night Owls Talk with Gideon Reicher. The program will be broadcast simultaneously on Army Radio 2:00 On the Edge of the Shell

15:90 From the Hoty Koran 15:05 Adventures on the Rainbow Pond - cartoon 15:30 Richie Rich 15:45 Playabout 16:00 Gillette - sports 16:30 Hey Dad - comedy 17:00 News Flash 18:00 French Programme 19:30 News Headlines 19:35

JEHUSALEMI
Conducted Tours
HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the
Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily
Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m. from Bronfman
Reception Centre, Sherman
Administration Bidg. Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26,
28. For info, call 882819.
HADASSAH. Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagali Windows. Tel. 02-418333,
02-776271.

GENERAL **ASSISTANCE**

EMERGENCY

PHARMACIES

m: Amona, 9 Leib Yaffe, 673-1901; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-

0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058. Tel Aviv: Shlomo Hamelech, 78 Shlomo Hamelech, 524-6461; Kupat Holim Clalit, 7-9 Amsterdam, 523-2383. Till 3 a.m. Tuesday: Pharma Dat Jabotinsky, 125 lbn Gvirol, 546-2040. Till midnight: Superpharm

Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; London Ministore Superpharm, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0115. Ra'anana-Ktar Sava: Arza, 36 Ostrovsky, Ra'anana, 774-11613.

Netanya: Porat, 76 Petah Tikva, 340967. Krayot area: Hyperpharm, Hypercol bldg., Kiryat Ata Junction, 872-0161. Haifa: Magen David, 13 Geula, 862-5205.

Herzliya: Clai Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clai Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 570468. Open 9 a.m. to 10

DUTY HOSPITALS

lem: Hadassah Ein Kerem internal, surgery, orthopedics, oph-thalmology); Misgav Ladach (obstet-rics); Bikur Holim (pediatrics, ENT). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics): Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 102 FIRE FIRST AID 101

Magen David Adom in emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or C Kiar Seva" 902222
Nahariya" 9912333
Netanya" 9912333
Netanya" 604444
Petah Tikva" 9311111
Rehxwor" 9451333
Rishon" 9842333
Saled 920333
Tel Aviv" 5480111
Tiberias" 792444
Int riserus in the Beersheba* E274767
Beit Shemesh 6523133
Dan Region* 5793333
Ellat* 6332444
Hatia* 8512233
Jerusslehm* 523133
Kermiel* 9985444
* Mobile Intersive Care Un

ensive Care Unit (MECU) service in the Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110

The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Eran — Emotional First Aid. 1201, also: Jerusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children/youth 696-1113). Haifa 867-2222/3, Beersheba 649-4333, Netanya 625110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kfar Sava 767-4555, Hadera

346789. Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133 (also in Russian), 07-637-6310, 08-855-0506 (also in Amhanc). Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-

0533, Eilat 633-1977. Hadassah Medical Organization -Israel Cancer Association support service 02-624-7676).

The Hypnotic World of Paul McKenna 20:00 Miner 3 Ferrwick - documentary on baby care 20:15 Matlock - court drama 21:10 Autism: A World Apart - documentary 22:00 News at Ten 22:25 The Bold and the

MEDDLE EAST TV

8:00 TV Shop 14:00 The 700 Club 14:30 State Dpartment File 649 — A story of espicage and intrigue in which an American agent lays his life on the line to stop the machinations of a Chinese warlord. Starring Virginia Bruce, William Lundigen and Raymond Bond. (38 mins.) 18:05 Urban Peasants 18:30 Dennis the Menace 18:55 Mask 17:20 Diplodo 17:45 Boulevard des Enfants 18:15 First Fight 18:40 The A-Team 19:30 World News Tonight (Arabic) 20:00 CNN Headline News 20:30 Top Cops 20:55 Diagnosis Murder: House on Sycamor Diagnosis Murder: House on Sycamor Street (Part 1) 21:45 Snowy River 22:35 The 700 Club 23:05 Lany King Live 00:90 TV Shop 2:00 Quantum Shopping 3:00 TV Shop

CABLE

■ ITV 3 (33)

18:00 Cartoons 18:30 Zohara and the Unknown Man 17:15 Panorama 18:00 Amores 18:00 News in Arabic 19:30 Doctors Tails 20:00 Mabat News 20:45 Scarlet Street (1945) – Romantic suspense turiller about a meek faile guy who's always the butt for everything that goes wrong being sucked into a lite of crime and deception. Starring Edward C. Robinson, Joan Bennett and Dan Duryea. (96 mins.) 22:25 Adventures and Challenges 23:20 Inside Stuff

15:30 Vacation Time 18:00 Butterfly Island
18:30 Family Relations 19:00 Basic Arabic
19:30 Reflection 20:00 A New Evening (with
Russian subtities) 20:30 Welcome to France
21:00 The Cutting Edge — Medical science
documentary 21:30 A Kind of Family —
Documentary about a homosexual who
adopts a street urchin who became an AIDS
victim as a result of his prostitutional encounters
22:30 Star Trek — The Next Generation
23:15 Jazz at the end of the summer

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

8:00 Sisters (rpt) 9:00 One Life to Live (rpt) 9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt) 10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt) 11:20 Perla Negra (rpt) 12:10 Neighbors (rpt) 12:35 Dallas (rpt) 13:30 Stating at 1:30 14:05 21 Jump Street 14:55 Sisters 15:50 Days of Our Lives 18:40 Neighbors 17:10 Dallas 18:00 One Life to Live 18:45 The Young and the Restless 19:30 Local broadcast 20:00 Perla Negra 20:50 Married with Children 21:15 The Namy 21:40 Mad About You 22:05 Hope and Gloria 22:30 Murphy Brown 23:20 Frasier 23:45 Metrose Place 00:35 Robin's Hoods 1:25 Hill Street Blues

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Baby of the Bride (1991) (rpt) 13:05
Dishonored Lady (1947) — The art director of
a glossy magazine is accused of murder.
With Hedy Lamarr. Directed by Robert
Stevenson (80 mins.) 14:30 Seeing Stars
15:20 Perfect Match (1987) (rpt) 16:55 The
Last Best Year (1990) — A 40-year old
woman with a year to live is befriended by a
tonely and sensitive psychologist. With Mary
Tyler Moore and Bernadette Peters.(92
mins.) 18:30 Hairspray (1988) — Musical perody about the dance program craze in the
60s, when everyone would do anything to
get on the show. Star-studded cast includes
Divine, Sonny Bono and Pia Zadora.
Directed by John Waters (91 mins.) 20:10

Island 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5 ± Jumanii 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5:15 SEMADAR = 6:18168
Trainspotting 10 ± Antonia's Line 6 ± Cold Comfort Farm 8 MEVASSERIET ZION G.G. Gil. Eraser 7:15, 9:45 ± Flipper@Babe (Hebrew dialogue) 11 a.m., 4:45 ± Mission Impossible 9:45 ± Babe Errorich General 7:15

(English dialogue) 7:15
TELAVIV
CINEMATHEQUE 2 Sprinzak St. =

IELDUSH CRIDGUS 1:15
TEL AVIV
CINEMATHEQUE 2 Sprinzak St. =
5772000 Brazil 7:30 * Twelve Monkeys 10
DIZENGOFF = 5172923 The Brothers
McMullen@White Squalit 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5:15,
7:45, 10 * Leaving Las Vegas 7:45, 10 *
Cutthroat Island 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5:15 DRIVE
IN The Juror 10 * The Golden Mall Gang
8 * Sex Film 12 midnight GAN HA'IR =
5279215 71 Ibn Gabirol St. Priscitia 2:30,
7:30, 9:45 Stolen Hearts 5, 7:30, 9:45 *
Late Summer Blues 2:30 GORDON Eat,
Drink, Man, Woman 5:30, 7:45, 10 G.G.
HOD 1-4 * 5228226 Hod Passage, 101
Dizengoff St. Mission Impossible@To Die
For 7:30, 10 * Filipper 11 a.m., 1:30 *
Primal Fear 10 * Babysitters 11 a.m.,
1:30, 5, 7:30 * Babe (*lebrew dialogue*)
elegend of the Wild 11 a.m., 1:30, 5 LEV
1-4 * 5288298 Trainsporting 12:15, 2:15,
5, 7:45, 10 * Cold Comfort Ferm 12 noon,
2, 5, 7:45, 10 * Shanghal Triad 5, 7:45, 10
* Little Princess 11 a.m., 1 * Strallow
Grave 1, 3, 5, 7:46, 10 * The Secret of
Roan Inish 11 a.m., 1 * G.G. PE'ER
Mission impossible@Fargo 5, 7:30, 10 *
To Die For 7:30, 10 * Babe (*lebrew dialogue*)
11 a.m., 1:30, 5 * The Hunchback
of Notre Dame (*lebrew dialogue*) 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Nove and Then 11 a.m.,
1, 3, 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Nove and Then 11 a.m.,
1, 3, 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Nove and Then 11 a.m.,
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1, 3, 5, 7:30, 9:45 * Royer Princess
(*lebrew dialogue*) 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5, 7:30
RAV-OR 1-5 = 5:02:674 Opera
House II Postino@Restoration@Things To
Doin Denver@Star Man@Four Stars 2:30,
5, 7:30, 9:45 G.G. TAYELET 1-3 =

7:30 RAY-OH 1-0 = 51020/4 Operations II Postino Restoration of Things To Doin Deriver Start San Mario Four Starts 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 G.G. TAYELET 1-3 = 5177952 2 Yong Hanavi St. Sense and

Sensibility 7:15, 10 ± The Birdcage@Fargo 7:30, 10 G.G. TEL AVIV # 5281181 65 Pinsker St. Mission impossible@The Eraser @Crying Freeman 5, 7:30, 10 TEL AVIV MUSE-UM Fire@Nielly et M. Amaud 5, 8, 10

HAIFA CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI = 8325765 JI

CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI = 8325755 II
Postino 7:15 * Star Man 9:15 * Fibr 7:15,
9:15 ATZMON 1-5 = 8673003 The
Eraser® Crying Freeman ®The Birdcage
®American Cuift 4:30, 7, 9:15 * Sense
and Sensibility 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 CINEMA
CAFÉ MORIAH * 8242477
Trainsporting 7:30, 9:30 CINEMATHEQUE Montenegro 7* Crimson Tide
9:30 GLOBECITY - ORI Crying
Freeman®The Eraser 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:45,
7:15, 9:45 * The Babysithers 11 a.m., 1:30
* To Die For 7:15, 9:45 * Babe (I-lebrew
dialogue) 11 a.m., 4:45 * Mileston

* To Die For 7:15, 9:45 * Babe (Hebrew dialogue) 11 a.m., 4:45 * Milsston impossible 7:15, 9:45 * Legend of the Wild 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:45 ORLY ≈ 8381868 Restoration 7, 9:15 RAV-GAT 1-2 ≈ 8674311 The Rock 11 a.m., 4:30, 7, 9:30 * Independence Day 11 a.m., 4, 6:45, 9:45 RAV-MOR 1-7 ≈ 8416898 Independence Day 11 a.m., 4, 6:45, 9:45 RAV-MOR 1-7 ≈ 8416898 Independence Day 11 a.m., 4, 3:45 * It

Grumpy Old Men (1993) - Two neighbors litelong antagonism gains incentive when an attractive window moves into the next street. With Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau and Arm-Margret. (99 mins.) 22:00 Serving in Sitence: The Marguerite Cammermayer Story (1995) - True story of an army nurse and combat veteran facing dismissal after 25 years of service when she admits she is a lestion. With Glenn Close and Judy Davis. (87 mins.) 23:35 Trapped and Deceived (1994) - A rebellious teerage girl is sent to a psychiatric institution by her parents, where she uncovers corruption involving the director. With Jenny Garth and Jill Elicanberry (88 mins) 1:05 Cheyenne Warnfor (1994) (pt) 2-40 Nightmare on the 13th Floor (1990) - Michele Green is a travel writer who uncovers mysterious goings-on at a hotel where everyone says there is no thinteenth floor (84 mins.) Grumpy Old Men (1993) - Two neighbors

E CHILDREN (6)

9:30 Carbons 8:05 Maya the Bee 8:30 Mot 9:00 Detective Hush Hash 9:40 Tasmania 10:15 The Children from Oz 10:50 VR Troopers 11:25 Minor Adjustments – new series 12:05 The Ren and Stimpy Show 12:45 Animaniacs 13:00 Growing Up 13:30 12:45 Animaniacs 13:00 Growing Up 13:30 Hugo 14:00 Chiquitias 14:50 Looney Tunes 15:10 Tasmania (rpt) 15:45 The Children from Cz (rpt) 16:20 VR Troopers (rpt) 16:55 Minor Adjustments (rpt) 17:35 The Ren and Stimpy Show (rpt) 18:15 Animaniacs (rpt) 18:30 Growing Up (rpt) 19:00 Hugo (rpt) 19:30 Three's Company 20:00 Married with Children 20:25 Roseanne 20:50 The Ren and Stimpy Show 21:05 Big Brother Jake 21:30 Whose Line is This Anyway?

ESECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Mother Kusters Goes To Heaven (1975, German) - Frau Kusters' quiet alle changes when her husband murders a factory boss and commits suicide. The press invades her apartment and the Communists try to make her a working class hero. With Brighte Mira and Karl-Heinz Bohm. Directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder (102 mins.) 23:45 Scarlet Street (1945) - A meek middleaged man gets involved in crime due to his infatuation with a femme fatale. With Edgar G. Robinson and Joan Bennett. Directed by Fritz Lang (101 mins.)

DISCOVERY (8)

6:00 Open University 12:00 Human Nature (rpt) 13:00 Beyond 2000 (rpt) 13:30 Ultrascience (rpt) 14:00 Open University 16:00 Human Nature (rpt) 17:00 Beyond 2000 (rpt) 17:30 Ultrascience (rpt) 18:00 Open University 20:00 Great Commanders 21:00 The Menu 22:00 Growing Apart 23:00 Great Commanders (rpt) 23:40 Open University

SUPER CHANNEL

6:00 The Selina Scott Show 7:00 Europe 2000 7:30 ITN News Live 8:00 Today 11:00 European Money Wheel 16:00 Wall Street Morning Reports 17:00 US Money Wheel 18:30 FT Business Tonight 19:00 ITN News 19:30 Talking to David Frost 20:30 The Selina Scott Show 21:30 Dateline 22:30 ITN News 23:00 Sport Magazine 00:00 The Best of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno 1:00 The Best of Later With Greg Kinnear

ESTAR PLUS

6:00 Aerobics 6:30 Narmy and the Professo 6:00 Aerobics 6:30 Narry and the Professor 7:00 Mr. Belvedere 7:30 Cooking Secrets of the CIA 8:00 Video Fashion News 8:30 Gabrielle 9:30 Santa Barbara 10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 11:00 Oprah Winfrey 12:00 Remington Steele 13:00 Cooking Secrets of the CIA 13:30 Video Fashion News 14:00 Teenage Mutant Kinja Turtles 14:30 Black Beauty 15:00 Lost in Space 16:00 Home and Away 16:30 Charles in Charge 17:00 M*A*S*H 17:30 Stryker – detective series 19:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 20:00 Santa Barbara 21:00 The Twilight Zone 21:30 Hearts Afire 22:00 Grace Under Fire 22:30 Barbaby Jones 23:30 Videofashion News 00:00 Oprah Winter Street Winirey 1:00 Hooperman 1:30 Home and Away 2:00 The Sullivans

CHANNEL 5

لكذا من ألاصل

6:30 Bodies in Motion 7:30 Basic Training 16:00 Bodies in Motion 16:30 Rollerblades -16:00 Bodies in Motion 16:30 Rollerblades –
Dizengolf Center 17:00 Game To Order.
Israel beskethall (npl) 18:00 Professional
beach volleyball, US 19:00 Dangerous
Games 19:30 Indycar racing 20:30 To be
announced 21:00 English Soccer – roundup 21:55 Special Broadcast: English Soccer
– Liverpool vs Arsenal 00:00 Baseball –
Game of the Week

国日用のCDCDT

9:30 Athletics: IAAF Grand Prix, Switzerland 9:30 Athletics: IAAF Grand Prix, Switzerland (rpt) 11:00 Karting: European Championships, Poland 12:00 International Motor Sport Magazine 15:00 Mountain Biking: French Open 16:00 Ski Jumping: Norwegian Grand Prix (rpt) 17:00 Motorcycle Racing: Czech Grand Prix – race (rpt) 19:00 Motor Sport Magazine 20:00 Tennis: Mercades 9 ATP tournament, Canada – live 00:00 Europoels 1:00 Europoels 1:00 Europoels 1:00 Ski Jumping: Monwealstoness (rpt) 19:00 Eurogolf 2:00 Ski "tumping: Norweglan Grand Prix (rpt)

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Soccer: Masters Open, Berlin – Magn vs Pans St. Germein (rpt) 6:30 Soccer: Masters Open, Berlin – Peris St. Germain vs Bayern Muenchen (rpt) 7:30 Cricket: Sunday League 12:30 Chinese League Soccer 14:30 Ternis: Canadian Open – first semi-final 16:30 Cycling: Superbike World Championships indonesia 18:00 International Sports Magazins 19:00 Soccer: Tiger Cup preview 20:00 PGA Goff 21:00 Rollersteales 22:00 International Sports Magazine 23:00 Chinese League Soccer 1:00 Windsurfing 1:30 International Motor Sports Magazine

BBC WORLD

News on the hour 6:00 World Headlines 6:05 The Money Programme 10:15 The Money Programme 11:30 Jerethy Ctarkson's Motorworld (pt) 12:30 Raymond's Blanc Mange (pt) 15:05 Assignment (pt) 16:15 World Business Report 16:30 Asia-Pacific Newshour 17:30 The Sky at Night (pt) 16:15 The Money Programme 19:30 Tomorrow's World (pt) 20:00 World News 22:05 The Money Programme 22:50 Earth Report 23:30 Time Out: Summer Holiday 00:00 World Business Report

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6:06 Morning Concert 9:05 Copeland: Symphony no 3; Mintler: Hungarian Songs; Ensemble Sirocco: Australian Mass (Folk-Rock SO): Leef: Canaante Fantasia (Baltzan). 12:00 Light Classical – Paul McCartney and Carol Davies 13:00 Paul Jacobs piano - Deusse Fireter Carter McCartney and Carol Davies 13:00 Paul Jacobs, piano - Debussy: Etudes; Carier: Calo Sonata (with Kroenick), 14:06 Summer Days 15:00 Cycle of Works - Beethoven's piano sonatas 16:00 Early music 17:00 Etratita - (1) Yotam Cohen, tenor, Jana Mildin, piano. Italian and Spanish songs; Russian Romances; (2) Dvoralc Cuertet in E flat Major op 51 (Cochin). 19:00 Rainbow of Sounds 20:05 Hactyn: Cuertet in D Major op 64 no 5 (Smetana); Dworalc Violin Concerto 21:00 A Matter of Agreement 23:00 Just Jazz

CINEMA

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE The American
President 5, 10 * Ran. 7 * Four Nights of
a Dreamer 9:30 * G.G. Gill: Jerusalem Mall
(Matria) ** 788448 The Eraser 11 a.m., 1:30,
4:30, 7:35, 9:45 * Flipper Cutthroat
Istand 11 a.m., 1:30 * Fargo 9:45 *
Babysitters 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:15 *
Little Princess 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:15 *
Little Princess 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:35 * To Die
For 7:15, 9:45 * Crying Freeman 4:30,
7:15, 9:45 * American Quilt 9:45 *
Legend of the Wild 11 a.m., 1:30, 4:30,
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Independence Day 4:15, 7, 9:45 * Leon 11 a.m.

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Phone reservations: Tel Aviv 5252244 Phone reservations: Haita 728878

Phone reservations: Halfa 728878 All times are p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Arrow's next test: Intercept surface-to-surface missile

THE operational model of the Arrow missile will for the first time try to intercept "an enemy" ground-to-ground missile in its forthcoming test, scheduled soon, defense sources said yesterday.

The sources said the Arrow 2 will be launched from a site along the Mediterranean coast and seek to intercept another missile fired several kilometers away. Project managers aim to steer the Arrow close enough to the incoming missile so the interceptor detonates an explosive charge that would cripple the enemy war-

The launch will be the first of four tests of the Arrow 2's missile intercepting capability. The prototype Arrow | managed to intercept a missile in one of its last tests, but the Arrow 2 is a smaller

weapon with two stages.

Arrow managers said the planned tests could be the most important stage in the eight-yearold project. They said their success will determine whether an Arrow anti-missile defense system would be operational by the end of the decade. So far, both US and Israeli participants in the project have expressed satisfaction with the progress of Arrow 2 and

the level of cooperation.
US and Israeli defense officials have agreed to give the Arrow high priority following efforts by Middle Eastern countries to develop sophisticated ground-toground missile systems. These include Egypt, Iran, and Syria all of which have been upgrading old Soviet Scuds with the help of China and North Korea.

The current \$322 million Arrow 2 project is being financed main-ly by the US, with Israel contributing 28 percent of the cost. The US is also helping Israel fund deployment of the missile defense system, which includes radar and ground stations.



Police escort a 15-year-old haredi youth, who was arrested for throwing stones on Rehov Bar-Ilan, into court yesterday, but his trial was postponed until today. The youth is to be held until the end of his trial.

OC Home Front Command attempts to calm northern residents

OC Home Front Command Mai Gen. Shmuel Arad and senior IDF

officers met with the heads of Haifa's bayside suburbs yesterday, following reports that Hizbullah may have acquired long-range Katyusha rockets theoretically capable of reaching the

Arad's message was primarily aimed at calming fears and putting the potential threat into perspec-

He reiterated that there is no concrete evidence that Hizbullah possesses rockets with a 40-km. range that could threaten northern parts of the bayside suburbs.

"I think that with all that has been published, to be completely accurate, what has been said is that there is no certainty about the existence of such weapons on the other side," Arad told reporters.

"I believe that if, in the future, there is such a certainty or intelligence that there are such weapons, we will know how to give [appropriate] solutions."

Arad stressed that, even if Hizbullah does have long-range Katyushas, there is only a theoretical prospect of them being

Nevertheless, Kiryat Motzkin Mayor Haim Zury said there is a likelihood, not a certainty, that there are such weapons and the councils will prepare accordingly. He said teams of engineers

fired against the bayside sub-

particularly Kiryat Motzkin, Kiryat Bialik, and Kiryat Yam in the coming weeks to assess the bomb shelters in the towns.

Zury noted that one of the main quate and subject to flooding.

The councils have established a

would visit the bayside suburbs,

problems in his town centers around older districts where shelters, where they exist, are inade-

bayside suburbs forum, along similar lines to that of the "confrontation line" communities in the North, in order to be prepared

AROUND THE WORLD

Samaria 21-30

Winning cards
In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis
daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, the seven of hearts, the nine of diamonds, and the eight of clubs.

ZOA fails to proclaim itself Zionist'

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

THE Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) is no longer Zionist This, and assorted other nuggets about the illusions of American Zionist life, can be gleaned from the 1996 American Jewish Yearbook, published by the American Jewish Committee.

The directory of Jewish organizations offers each the chance to describe itself. Description, however, takes a back seat to self-promotion that paints an unduly rosy picture of energy and activity.

ZOA, for example, "strengthens the relations between Israel and the US through educational activities that explain Israel's importance to the US and the dangers it faces." according to information the organization provided. The word

"Zionism" does not appear. It also "works on behalf of pro-Israel legislation." ZOA says, although ZOA is not a registered lobby, and although that is the role of AIPAC.

ZOA lists in the yearbook that it "maintains" the Kfar Silver school, although there is no longer regular financial support from the national office of ZOA, according to a Kfar Silver spokesman in Ashkelon.

Elsewhere on the Zionist front, the American Zionist Movement describes itself as an umbrella organization that is "the voice of unified Zionism in the US." However, unified Zionism is wishful thinking. Groups on the political right, such as Tsomet, pulled out because AZM supported the peace policies of the Labor government. ZOA does not participate, which may be due as much to ZOA's financial problems as AZM's politics. The lack of unity does not stop there.

Three Orthodox Zionist groups -Amit, Emunah, and Mizrachi reluctantly walked away from AZM last year, after it voted in favor of a resolution on religious pluralism, which is forbidden territory for the

First drillings begin on Tel Aviv subway

DAVID HARRIS

TEL AVIV'S first subway line will be operational within five years, Mayor Ronni Milo said yesterday. He was speaking as the first of 30 initial test drillings for the \$5 billion system began.

For each 20 kilometers of line, the cost will be \$1.4 billion, Ilik Rozansky, director of the Tel Aviv Metropolitan Administration for the Mass Transit System, told reporters.

The purpose of the boring is to assess the quality of the land and ascertain the appropriate depths at which the subway tunnels should be constructed. Twenty-two of the test sites are in Tel Aviv and Jaffa; eight are outside the city. The first tests are being conducted at Jerusalem Boulevard and near the railway station on Arlozoroff Street.

The holes are being sunk to a maximum depth of 45 meters, with a 15 centimeter diameter. The work will continue for three days at each location, using a mobile drill operat-

ed from the rear of a truck. This operation is one of a series aimed at working out the best drilling methods and use of technology in preparation for full-scale

City Hall statistics suggest some half-a-million vehicles enter the metropolis every day, and that is likely to increase to 750,000 by the end of the century. The city's administration says the roads are no longer able to cope with the traffic, making the subway an increasingly urgent requirement.

"Without a widespread transportation network, the city will become one giant traffic jam, and the heart of the country will be in a state of paralysis," according to a statement from City Hall.

The municipality is taking the lead in the project alongside the Transport Ministry, despite the creation of the National Infrastructure Ministry, which has taken over responsibility for rolling stock and railway lines.

In the coming weeks, the final preparations for the key multi-million dollar tender will be completed and the relevant legislation will be introduced in the Knesset to pave the way for the appropriation of

By December, the first routes of the subway system will have been decided, said Rozansky. The major contractors will come from abroad. but domestic companies will also play a significant role in construc-tion, he added.

Airports Authority: Security checks used as excuse to bump passengers

HAIM SHAPIRO

AIRLINES are using security delays as an excuse to bump excess passengers when there is overbooking, Airports Authority spokesman Yehiel Amitai charged yesterday.

Amitai made the charge in an atmosphere of increased tension between the airlines and the authority, as passengers continue to miss flights, apparently because of long delays in security checks. Airline sources suggested that the authority is deliberately heightening the problem in order to speed up authorization for Ben-Gurion 2000, the

planned new terminal. Amitai reacted angrily to such charges, saying that the authority had invested \$50 million during the past year in making the present airport more amenable. However, he added, the authority has warned, over the past three years, that the present terminal could not handle the

Among the temporary measures taken, Amitai said, are the expansion of the departure hall by 2,500 square meters and the erection of an additional new terminal for charter flights. There are also new baggage conveyors and three new baggage xray machines in the departure hall,

each costing \$1 million. While refusing to disclose the number of security checkers, Amitai said that the authority had recently hired 10 percent more. However he would not comment on reports that many of the checkers will be leaving their jobs

at the start of the academic year. The airline sources also said that Ben-Gurion Airport director Shaul Hazan was to have met yesterday with the airline station managers to discuss the delays, but that he put off the meeting until next week. Amitai denied that any such meeting had

One dead as fraud charged in Lebanese election BEIRUT (Reuter) - One man was killed and

rival candidates swapped charges of bribery, intimidation, and gangsterism yesterday, as Lebanon's parliamentary elections got under way in Mount Lebanon, the Christian heartland. Polling was brisk in some areas, as a part of the divided Christian minority ignored calls

from hard-line anti-government leaders at they staged at the last elections in 1992. Some 450,000 of Mount Lebanon's 656,000 voters are Christians and the region, voting to

elect 35 deputies to the 128-member parliament, has the reputation of being a bastion of opposition to Syria's domination of Lebanon. Police and independent observers reported at

least four incidents of fist fighting or gunfire as the region voted in the first of five rounds of polling to be held in different parts of the country on consecutive Sundays.

The dead man was named as Akram Arbid.

Police sources said he died after a brawl at a polling station in the mainly Druse district of Schweifat, near Beirut.

At Bratar in the Druse-dominated Aley district, troops intervened to stop a polling station brawl, arresting several people and halting voting for an hour, security sources said.

Opposition candidates and an independent watchdog group reported dozens of incidents of alleged violations by government supporters in the key North Meta district, where Interior Minister Michel Murr faced a challenge from prominent leaders of the resurgent Christian

Murr was responsible for organizing the election, and independent observers said the alleged abuses in North Metn were some of the worst since Lebanese independence in 1943.

"In the Metn I'm convinced that if there is any law, the vote there should be canceled. It's a joke. It's not at all a free and fair election by any stretch of the imagination," Paul Salem, secretary-general of the private Lebanese Association for the Democracy of Elections (LADE), told Reuters.

Lebanon has not seen so much intimidation and fraud since notoriously corrupt elections in 1947, Salem said. However, voting went smoother in the other five districts of Mount Lebanon that voted yesterday, he added North Meth had been expected to be the

toughest fight between supporters and opponents of the Syrian-backed government, which opposition leaders say has allowed Lebanon's sovereignty to be whittled away.

Opposition candidates in North Meth said 40-50 of their polling station delegates were detained by police during the night, hours before voting began. They were freed at dawn after a 5 a.m. telephone appeal to Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Opposition candidate Michel Samaha, a former government minister, called for Murr's resignation, calling him a "gangster." Others said Murr had used the police and government apparatus to intimidate opposition campaign workers and voters.

Samaha said the vote went well in some places. "But in some other places there are no rules, no laws, and it is a big mess."

Murr hit back by accusing opposition candidate Nasib Lahoud, a millionaire contractor, of distributing \$120,000 in bribes to secure votes. Lahoud denied the charges, telling Reuters they were "utter lies from a man who has no credibility and is not fit to run this ministry. He has been using bribery for 40 years."

No dramatic changes expected in Lebanese poll

DAVID RUDGE

THE parliamentary elections taking place in Lebanon are a further sign of the country's return to normalcy, according to Middle East expert Dr. Yossi Olmert.

He stressed, however, that the outcome of the current voting would have no more overall effect on control of the country than the results of the previous elections in 1992.

These are the second elections taking place under relatively normal conditions, notwithstanding the semi-boycott by Christians last

time," said Olmert. "There might be a partial boycott by Christians this time as well, although it is unlikely to be massive. In any case, such a boycott would have little significance because the system continues to

There is a government, there is a chamber of deputies and, over and above all of this, there is Syrian dominance. The entire Lebanese system

is under the shadow of the Syrians. The conditions there are by-andlarge a token of Syria's great success in implementing its policies - in pacifying Lebanon, getting the system back to a normal state, and linking it to Syria's policy and designs," he said. "This latter aspect can be seen in the peace process through Lebanon's rejection of the 'Lebanon First' plan, because it is not in the

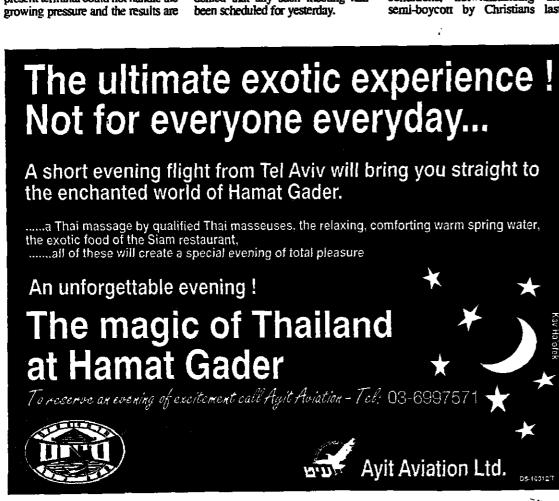
interests of the Syrians." Lebanon, according to Olmert, has "to all intents and purposes become a Syrian colony. The outcome of the elections is unlikely to change that, unless there is a dramatic anti-Syrian

vote, which I don't expect." Olment said Hizbullah, which has eight seats in the outgoing Lebanese same number in the new elections.

less. The actual number of seats doesn't really matter, however, because they already have an influence on Lebanese politics through causing trouble in the south. They are a part of any arrangement in the

They are also influential because they are operated by Syria and Iran and because they are strong among the Shi'ites, who remain a discriminated element and who are still yearning for a fundamental change in the Lebanese system to satisfy their own interests," said Olmert.

He added that the elections are likely to be problematic, amid allegations of fraud and vote fixing, and it would probably take some time before the results are finally



parliament, is likely to win about the "They may get more, or even a few



Hazorfim Belgium - Schupstraat 20, 2018 Antwerpen, Tel: 2271666